

1847 }  
 Janry }  
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In }  
 tro }  
 duc }  
 tion }

Sketch Book No 21, from  
 January 1<sup>st</sup> 1847 to March 15  
Friday. Morn cloudy foggy  
 & wind SW the day the same.  
 In continuing my Journal  
 and Sketches, I am aware that  
 I have already written more  
 than even my most patient  
 friends will ever peruse. But  
 as I write for my own amuse  
 ment in my lonely hours,  
 and not for the public. I  
 shall continue them finding  
 that, at least, they enable me  
 to keep a sort of calendar of  
 the days and months, which  
 like a seamans logbook  
 shows the ships way and its  
 various occurring incidents;  
 and as our political ship is  
 now on a perilous voyage among  
 shoals rifts & ice bergs, and un  
 der an inexperienced commander  
 who

Janry  
1<sup>st</sup>

Same  
continued }

who relies more on dead  
reconing than on celestial ob  
servations these seem to be  
additional motives for extending  
my Journal. I shall there  
fore note the [    ], storms,  
and hair-breath escapes of  
the ship, with its opposite  
currents & variation of [    ]  
[    ] &c.

In forming my remarks and  
observations by what riflemen  
call off hand shots, I may some  
times repeat ideas and senti  
ments previously given; but  
if they are pertinent at the  
time, I shall consider them  
not essentially out of place {——}

In my remarks on the war  
with Mexico, believing it to be  
wholly unnecessary, and brought  
on by the strides of President  
Polk and his party, I have  
been free in my expressions  
of its turpitude; and so long

Jany }  
1 }

Con }  
tinued }

as it bears this character, can  
the president give it his hearty support.

A war for conquest with  
out regard to justice can add  
nothing to the glory of a na  
tion, which provokes it.

But let a war ever so  
unjust, a certain portion of  
community will be ready  
to support it, especially the  
young and inconsiderate. They  
hear of the military exploits  
of their fathers & grandfathers,  
and without the least know  
ledge of the hardships or hor  
rors of war, they are charm  
ed with the pageant, and  
without reflection, rush on  
to the melee. But generally  
a little [ ] service turns  
their thoughts to their homes,  
and they too late repent of  
their temerity.

During a peace of thirty years  
a new race of this description of  
of men has risen among us

Jany

1

Continued }

and nothing but the shout  
of war and its ~~full~~ empty baub  
bles are necessary to lead them  
on to the fatal trap. I hear  
the noisy demagogue infers  
that the war is popular;  
but let it be recollected that  
he generally keeps himself out  
of harms way. In my fur  
ther remarks, I shall endeavor  
to award [ ] justice to these  
patriots, who would prostrate  
the welfare & happiness of their  
country to their nefarious designs

In the papers of the day, we  
often see pretensions to new dis  
coveries on arts & sciences with  
puffs from their learned editors: but  
like the flints of a meteor pass  
into oblivion. When I notice these  
pretensions, it is with a view of  
showing the unbelieability of minds  
who dabble with science beyond  
their their capacity.  
In politics we shall keep an eye

Jany  
1  
Con }  
tinued }

the radical principles which wild democracy would introduce, and which, if carried out through the union, would prostrate all that is valuable in our government, and its institutions. Recollecting with a wise writer "That when infamous men bear sway, the post of honor is a private station."<sup>1</sup>

2

Saturday. Morn cloudy, and wind NE, last night some rain. the day partially fair.

Deser }  
tions }  
from }  
Army }

A List of 761 desertions from the U.S. Army, it is stated, has been published in New York City papers, by the Adjutant General and a ~~reward~~ 30 dollars each, offered as a reward. This is a specimen of the volunteer spirit so rife on Mr Polks first call for them. Of the total incompetency of volunteer corps, under officers of their own choice, I have entertained but one opinion; and to invade & extensive country with such troops demonstrates the folly of the Government which directs it.

But

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<sup>1</sup> From Joseph Addison's *Cato: A Tragedy*, a favorite play of George Washington.

Jany

2

Undis  
ciplined }  
troops }

But it will be said, the volunteers fought bravely at Monterey This is not denied: they in some instances fought desperately and performed individual feats, where well disciplined troops would have attacked with more caution and succeeded with less loss, by adhering to regulated skill. Of the native bravery of volunteers no doubts are entertained; but this bravery is chivalrous fluctuating and uncertain in its effects, and often ends in a panic where disciplined troops preserve perfect order. This native bravery is generally the result of ignorance of experience; and in a second battle sometimes fails entirely. The regular soldier is not destitute of fear, but he is taught that disobedience of orders is more dangerous, and he keeps his place in the ranks because he dares not [ ] without orders. In the attacks of undisciplined men too much reliance is placed

Jany  
2

placed upon individual exertion, to the neglect of combined movement of the different corps engaged, when the whole are to act on one combined machine; and here is seen the difference between regular and irregular troops. Nor is this all: in camp the latter cannot be brought to implicit and patient obedience to orders, and they often become mutineers, and averse to the regularity which is essential in an army, and without which the men are little better than a mob.

These are considerations generally overlooked by men unacquainted with military service, and who believe that bravery alone contributes the solution—an error too common among our political leaders, who have not examined the art of war in its various branches.

From some late hints in the papers, it appears that President Polk begins to think that an army of regular troops is necessary for an invasion of Mexico & that he is about to recommend the raising of such a force.

Jany  
 2  
 3  
 Mr Har  
 ris' Ser  
 mon on  
 the Mex  
 ican War  
 A wise  
 dis  
 course

with such a ~~force~~ army in the field.  
 we may talk of conquests while  
 the volunteer corps remain at home  
 engaged in their proper employments  
Sunday. Morn cloudy wind  
 W. and day partially fair.  
 I have read a sermon de  
 livered at Conway on the Annual  
 Thanksgiving Novr. 26, 1846 by the  
 Rev. Samuel Harris, Pastor of the  
 Congregational Church of that place.  
 Amidst the singular apathy which  
 reigns in relation to the war with  
 Mexico, I am grateful to find  
one so able & willing to exam  
 ine the causes and foundation  
 of the war. The preacher has  
 treated his subject fairly and  
 [     ], and embraced the  
 very points which have struck  
 my mind as important, and  
 which demanded the consider  
 ation of every enlightened man  
 within the United States.

The



Jany

3

[     ]  
[     ] pub  
lished }

The preacher's text from Habakuk 2:12, is appropriate: "Wo to him that buildeth a town with blood, and establisheth a city by iniquity."

His sermon is well calculated to rouse the public mind to a just sense of the miasma of the present administration of our federal government. The Preacher richly deserves the thanks of every patriot of his Country~

4

Monday. Cloudy morn. wind N. And day the same. In the evening snow fell~

Query  
about  
the  
army }

How happens it that ~~were~~ our army in Mexico, has made so little progress since the storm of Monterey? The grant of 50,000 volunteers with the regular force and 12 millions of dollars for an out-fit, every democrat supposed sufficient to complete the conquest of the country. But President Polk has discovered that

Jany

4

Mr P. }  
disaray }

troops require provisions as well as fire arms and ammunition to carry on a war: and also that soldiers are not made in a taylors shop, or by bowl ing green dances at the tunes of a band of musick. The volunteer spirit of the western & southern states having abated, the President seems, now inclined to try the spirit of the northern Yankees, especially of Massachusetts; but none of the General officers are found in that quarter of the Union, where the chivalrous spirit is not so predominant as on the south. Our regimental officers however, are admissible provided they can enlist their men, and are subservient to southern "gal lentry & fanified superiority".

5

Friday. Morn fair wind SW followed by a very fair day and moderate air, The snow of moderate depth be it sufficient for sleighing

Jany  
6

Our  
General  
Court  
in Ses  
sion

Anti  
cipated  
pro  
ceedings

Wednesday Morn fair,  
wind SW; and a very fair pleasant  
day followed.

This day our General Court  
assembles at Boston to trans  
act the annual business of the  
state, and to enact the nec  
essary, or, it may be said un  
necessary laws. The Executive  
the Council, and Senate will be free  
from democratic misrule, and  
in the House the radical mem  
bers will be few; and it is  
hoped resolutions will pass express  
ing strong disapprobation of  
the unjust Mexican War, into  
which we have been plunged  
by the extraordinary strides of  
President Polk, which ought to  
be more extensively known by  
the people.

By similar strides in the dis  
pute of an Northeastern bounda  
ry & that of Oregon, the President  
would have plunged us into a war  
with Great Britain; and if it be

Jany 6		admitted that he kept with in the bounds of the Constitution where he ordered a military force to the <u>Nueces</u> the <u>claimed bound</u> <u>ary</u> of Texas it is clear that when he invaded the disputed terri tory between that river and the Rio Grand, he exceeded his power and wantonly caused the war with Mexico,-- a power which the constitution vests in Con gress: and if that body shut ting their eyes to the President's un lawful stride, sanctioned thereby measures for prosecuting the war, the members are respon sible to the abused people, at the <u>ballot boxes</u> a mild rem edy indeed, but un effectual one when the people are tied to their interests & moral principles. If such strides of a President be suffered to [    ] with impunity, then we shall at all times, be liable to wars with neighboring nations; when the President is so disposed. But
Mr Polks invasion of Mexico	}	
Unlaw ful and danger ous	}	
Sanctioned by a ma jority of Congress	}	
Cause of wars	}	

Jany

6

Lesson }  
taught }Admi }  
nistration }

the fate of the Roman Empire and that of Bonaparte, it is hoped, will afford us useful lessons. The conquest of Mexico, consisting of a population of 7 or 8 millions, may not be so easy as our wild war hawks had supposed; nor will our precocious ambition be [ ] [ ] by the civilized nations of the world. Let us then, return to a sort of justice, keep within our limits, and none will be found to distract our repose. In peace our nation is a respectable member of the great family of men, but in an offensive war, a disturber of the harmony on which the welfare of the world rests, as well as our own. Give us peace and we may become great, war, and we may be deprived of our happy condition. The motive principles of the present war can be easily explained by southern men, and Mr Polk was elected to prosecute it; but it is a mystery that northern people should give in to it.

Jany		<u>voluntary</u> aid, while it strikes
6		at the first principles of our
Congratu		declaration of Independence.
lations		The success of the state in
on the		the election of its Governor & Legislature
Success		for the ensuing year, is a cause
of the		of congratulations, and evinces
election		a return of the people to good
in the		sense—Nor is this progress
State		confined to Massachusetts.
		“New England first in freedom’s Van,
		To toil & bleed for injured man,
		Still true to Virtue, dares to say
		<u>Order is Freedom</u> Man obey!” <sup>2</sup>
Governor		We look for Governor Briggs
Briggs		Message with increased anticipa
		tions of a sound display of the
		politics & wisdom of the state
7		<u>Thursday</u> . Morn cloudy & fog
		gy wind SW. Some rain
		and the day the same
		in the evening sharp lightning.
Remarks		A Boston paper remarking
of a		upon volunteer corps of militia says
Boston		the American ideas of independ
paper		ence makes men rather [    ]
		under the harness of military service;
		and

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<sup>2</sup> Robert Treat Paine’s *Rule, New England*.

Jany

7

on }  
dura }  
tion }

and asserts that there  
are more desertions from our  
little army of 10,000 men, then  
from the French force of 300,000  
soliders.

Probably the statement is  
correct, and is accounted for  
on the principles of American  
liberty, the writer alludes to.

Lib }  
erty }  
and }  
equal }  
ity }

The ideas of liberty & equality  
which prevail in a republic  
and are supposed the bases of  
of the system, are, however, the  
reverse of those that are found  
necessary in the government of  
soldiers. When the citizen en  
lists into military service, he  
renquishes all claims to this  
sort of liberty, and becomes a  
tool in the hands of his offi  
cers. He must not even ask  
for explanations, of movements,  
a plan adopted by his com  
mander, but implicitly obey  
all orders he receives, with cheer  
fulness and without hesitation  
when ordered to the most des  
perate attack, he must keep his place  
in the rank

Its }  
effects }  
on }  
soldiers }

Jany		and divest himself of all thought
7		but obedience; and when
The re	}	he sees his companions falling
verse of		on his right and left, he must
military		not flinch, or retreat without
discip		the command of his officer.
line		To bring men to such service,
		is no easy lesson, especially for those
		who have been bred up to
		[     ] liberty & freedom
		of action; and hence the [     ]
		that are always found in
		volunteer soldiers; especially
		in those who <u>elect their offi</u>
		<u>cers</u> without control. And
		here it may be remarked, that
		the different estimation in which
		the candidates for officer are
		held, by the soldiers, will tend
		to destroy the harmony of the
		corps, and to introduce a spirit
		of democratic opposition, ruin
		ous to the discipline of armies <del>the corps</del>
		In short, to use the words of Gen.
		Mercer who fell in the attack
		on Princeton in 1777, "The giving
		to man the choice of their officers
		will forever mar the discipline
		of armies."

Ruin  
ous to  
discip  
line

Gen  
Mercers  
opinion



Jany  
7

Sold  
iers of  
mona  
rchies }

of re  
publican  
soldiers }

False  
notion }

In monarchical Governments  
this spirit of liberty and  
equality, is little known;  
a spirit of subordination reigns  
even in civil life, and when  
the subjects become soldiers  
their change of condition is  
scarcely felt, and they sub  
mit to orders from a habit  
which they have been taught  
in civil life at home.

But republicans, may be con  
verted to obedient soldiers, yet  
the process is more difficult than  
in a monarchy, & requires a long  
er time. ~ I am aware of the  
notion entertained by some, that  
the republican acts more from  
principle than the subjects of a  
monarch; but those who place  
the prowess of troops on their  
general, have made but a  
superficial examination of  
the art of war. These men  
tell us of the love of country of  
the love of family & of friends!  
as sufficient stimulants to the

Jany  
7

Citizen }  
Soldiers }

performance of military duty:  
but ask the opinion of any  
experienced scientific offer, [ ]  
these ~~stimulants~~ [ ] are to be relied  
on, and he will smile at the  
pretension so ill founded.  
The truth is, when the citizen  
becomes a soldier, he ~~must~~ give  
up all thought of liberty, and  
equality, and {——} per  
form his duty in the military  
machine in which he is placed,  
and ask no reasons for the  
movements his commander dic  
tates.  
These are considerations  
which seem to be disregarded  
by the gentlemen who are  
engaged in the enlistment of  
volunteer corps for the army;  
but experience sad experi  
ence may, too late, bring them  
to their to their notice.  
If the above views are  
correct, the fallacy of Mr  
Polks volunteer soldiers will  
appear; and from a recent

Jany  
7

recommendation to Congress  
to raise 10 new regiments of  
regular troops, the officers to  
be appointed & commissioned  
by the Executive head it seems that  
he has at length learned that  
his volunteers are not sol  
diers fit for an invasion  
and that he and his war  
hawks, will also learn that though  
we have a numerous military  
so called, yet we are far  
from being a military nation  
as many of our [ ] sup  
posees.

Our success in the war of the  
revolution, aided by France,  
has created a false estimation  
of our strength, but the total  
failure of Mr Madison's war  
of 1812, ought to have taught  
us modesty in our pretensions  
We are however not powerless  
in a defensive war, in which  
right and justice is inserted on  
our standard. When this  
shall be our ruling motto we  
shall have nothing to fear.

Jany  
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Let us then revise our course  
and render justice where jus  
tice is due: and if in a treaty  
of peace with Mexico we relin  
quish the parts of the territo  
ry we have overrun we  
should obtain a rich reward  
in a returning sense of Justice  
and honor, as well as in  
the esteem of civilized nations  
who are not unattended to  
our movements and strides.

8

Tuesday. Morn fair, wind S.W.;  
the day fair, but with  
many scattering clouds.

Mr  
Polks }  
Lt  
Genl }

In President Polks call on  
Congress for 10 new regiments  
of regulars, he proposes the  
appointment of a Gen. officer  
to command all the armies  
in Mexico Who is the sublime  
genius he has in view Wash  
ington, Wellingtons and  
Bonaparts are easily found.  
and Gen. Scott's tactics begin to  
show the rust. Mr Polks  
[ ] recent General, selected  
from

Jany  
8

His  
quail  
fica  
tions

Ta  
raire's  
re  
mark

from the school of modern  
democracy, unembarrassed  
by strategic rules, or the  
timely operations of [     ]  
is to introduce new modes  
of attack and defense in which  
the rifle and tomahawk of  
the back-woods men are to  
perform wonders, not dreamed  
of before [     ] [     ], Marl  
borough, or the other system  
atic commanders of Europe  
in later times.  
The remark of Marsall Ta  
raire, "that he had sometimes  
been more puzzled by a block  
head than an able general"  
may have suggested to Mr. Polk  
the appointment of a Liet.  
General, who, [     ] by  
the rules and maxims of war  
would achieve victories by his im  
methodical attacks, better adopt  
ed to the chivalrous bravery of the  
times, and especially to his volunteers  
who, like Burns' Scotsmen  
with



Jany

9

Call  
for  
taxes  
on tea  
& coffee

Mr Secretary Walker appears to be alarmed at the state of the publick funds, and urges Congress to post a duty on Tea & Coffee, but the House of Representatives, fearful of the effects at the ballot-boxes opposed the project and the a resort may be had to a direct tax Thus adopted, the people will be "set to rights" When the war commenced, was there a democrat in the country who supposed money would be wanted to conquer the Halls of Montezuma and spread liberty & equality ~~over~~ "benighted" Mexico? Not one! A small force of rifle hunters from the waters of the Mississippi was to accomplish this

Jany  
9

work of love – This be  
nevolent interference with  
the institutions, laws  
and rights of a sister re  
public which desires to  
establish an independence  
of its own.

But after a campaign  
of nine months, it appears  
that our ready volunteers  
aided by Gen. Taylors regu  
lars, have made but a  
small advance beyond the  
Rio Grande, and that Mex  
ico is unconquered.  
Mr Polk is however pre  
paring a force for this pur  
pose, and our Boston reg  
iments composed of pure pat  
riots who, by the way, that  
city can well spare, are filled with  
the spirit of Bunker-Hill, is  
nearly



Jany

9

Bos

ton

Regi

ment

nearly ready for the field,  
 and who can doubt that  
 this corps will give a new  
 fever to the war, and push  
 on to the city of Mexico, &  
enforce liberty on a people  
 who are content with their  
 own, Aye! says a facetious poet  
 Go, Go, Go;  
 To the nations show,  
 We are freemen by our birth;  
 Free for madness or for mirth;  
 Free to conquer all the earth  
 After Mexico~<sup>4</sup>

10

Sunday. Morn cloudy—  
 wind NW continued clou  
 dy with some snow.  
 and cold air afternoon  
 The winter thus far, has  
 not been severely cold, nor  
 the snow of uncommon  
 depth, yet sufficient for  
 good sleighing and sled  
 ing.

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<sup>4</sup> From a song called “The Volunteer’s Song” which was one of three war protest songs published in *The Liberator*.

Jany  
11

Vol. 3 }  
of Ex }  
ploring }  
Expedi }  
tion }

Feejee }  
Group }

Monday. Cloudy morn  
with some snow; wind  
N. day same. at night fair  
Exploring Expedition Vol. 3  
This vol. embraces the voyage  
from New-Zealand north  
ward, through various groups  
of Island to Honolulu.  
The Feejee group, between  
Latitudes 15°--30' and 19°--30' S  
and the Logitudes 177° E and 178  
W. consists of 154 islands, 65 of  
which are inhabited, and the  
remainder occasionally resorted  
to by the nations. At one of  
the islands the native killed  
two of the officers of the Squadron,  
for which the Commodore  
ordered the destruction of several  
of their towns, killed many, ~~and~~  
and obtained promises to de  
sist from similar outrages  
for the future. The population  
of the islands is

Jany  
11

Popu  
lation }

Hono  
lulu }

is stated at about 133,000  
and some of them cannibals  
and it appears they are in  
the use of a few fire arms and  
have a rude mode of fortifying  
places. The squadron made  
a general survey of the group  
a map of which is given in  
the atlass.

Honolulu is represented as con  
siderably advanced towards  
civilization, especially from  
the instructions of missiona  
ries of western nations.

Many of the islands in  
the Pacific Ocean indicate a  
volcanic origin, while others  
are evidently Coralline pro  
trusions, and as both pro  
cesses are going on may  
we not infer that there  
~~there~~ was a time when they  
were less numerous. But the  
genuine question presented to

Jany

11

Islands

how

peopled

not

solved

12

inquiring minds is, by what  
 natural means have they  
 been peopled? The quest  
 ion may never be satisfact  
 orly solved, but by sup  
 posing the same creation pow  
 er that planted man in the  
 main lands, extended to  
 the distant isles of the oce  
 an.

Tuesday. Morn fair, wind W  
 and the day fair, excepting  
 scattering clouds toward sun  
 set, with blustering wind & driv  
 ing the snow with "whirling  
drift".

"Descend ye chilling smothering snows,  
 Not all your rage as now, united shows ~~your rage~~  
 More hard unkindness, unrelenting,  
 Vengeful malice, unrepenting,  
 Than heaven illunin'd man or man bestows  
 See stern oppression's iron grip,  
 Or mad ambitions gory hand  
 Senders, like blood-hounds from the slip

Jany  
12       Woe, want, and murder o'er a land,  
Even in the peaceful rural vale  
Truth, weeping, tells the mournful tale."<sup>5</sup>

13       Wednesday. Morn fair wind W;  
the day mostly cloudy.  
In the Congress House of Representatives, Jany 2d, Mr Sims<sup>6</sup> offered  
a resolution as follows: "That the  
people of the U. States are too  
patriotic to refuse to submit to  
necessary taxes in time of war.  
Would not the question have  
been more properly presented to  
the people? And the time seems  
to be approaching when they will  
answer it, at the ballot boxes.  
The expenses of a war may be  
come necessary for its abettors but  
it does not here follow that the war  
is necessary. Of this the people  
will judge when they feel  
the pressure, whether necessary  
or unnecessary. Let Congress keep this  
in view.  
Mr Sims' call upon patriotism

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<sup>5</sup> Robert Burns' *A Winter Night*.

<sup>6</sup> Leonard Henly Sims (1807-1886) was a Democratic Representative from Missouri.

Jany

13

M Sims  
call up  
on pat  
riotism

will be but faintly heard  
when the tax gather's im  
perilous rape brings the echo  
to the door of the peaceful  
citizen, whose industry fur  
nishes himself and family  
scarcely support; nor will the  
wealthy man pour out his  
dollars without reflection  
upon the useless waste  
and folly of the government  
who produced the necessity.  
Mr Sims is from Missouri  
where patriotism may  
be current; but let him  
be cautious that he  
does not depreciate its val  
ue nor suffer it to be  
counterfeited.

Mr  
Polks  
recent  
message

Mr Polk's recent message to Con  
gress recommending an increase  
of regular troops for the army  
in Mexico, to say the least, [ ]  
[ ] of disappointment, in  
his militia volunteers.

But

Jany  
13

Call  
for reg  
ular  
troops }

But whether his ten regiments can be enlisted, disciplined & fitted for the field, "before the present favorable season for military operations in the enemy's country shall have passed away is rather doubtful. Another hot season may be as fatal to his new troops as that of the campaign of 1846. On the Rio Grande. We think however, Mr Polk evinces some advance in his acquirements in the art of war, and has at least learned how to appreciate the value of volunteer corps of militia.

The suggestions he presents to Congress in relation to a large peace & the age of officers, will not be misunderstood by some of the experienced commanders. A Leut. General with a carte blanche may obviate all the difficulties of which Mr Polk complains.

But

Jany

13

Mr  
Polk's  
position  
criti  
cal.

But on the whole, Mr Polks position is rather critical In the adjustment of the Oregon territory he lost the confidence of many of his western friends whose favorite objects were war with Great Britain, & the conquest of Canada and other British provinces. The expenses of the Mexican war begin to incite the attention of the thinking people, and should the conquest of the whole of Mexico be delayed, beyond the present "favorable season" his northern and southern patriots may attribute it to the lack of democratic energy which admits of no delay for preparation. Under these circumstances Mr Polk, find that his public duties are not so thickly strewn with flowers as he had supposed. He may however learn more of the nature of modern democracy than he had acquired in Tennessee.



Jany  
14

Gov  
Briggs  
mes  
sage  
where  
is it

Thursday Morn cloudy, wind  
W. PM sun appeared & then again cloudy  
This is the 9<sup>th</sup> day of the  
session of our General Court, and  
as yet, we hear nothing of Gov.  
Briggs' message to that body What  
has happened to our magnetic  
telegraphs are their wires broken  
His message of Gov Young, we  
are informed, was transmitted by  
telegraph, from Albany to New  
York City, within 2 ½ hours  
This rapidity of communi-  
cation may be gratifying to Mr  
Morse, but the public, we  
believe, will be content with  
rail road speed. Mr Morse  
we fear will not be compen-  
sated for his very ingenious  
labor. On extended lines  
no care will inforce a con-  
tinuity of the conducting wires.  
And I apprehend other dif-  
ficulties from various course  
which our imperfect knowledge

Jany		of the laws of magnetism, gal
14		vanism and electricity, does not
		enable us to assign.
15		<u>Friday</u> . Morn cloudy, wind
		NW. and the day the same
		throughout.
Governors	}	The Governors Message
message		to the Gen. Court I have receiv
received		ed this day. It is replete
		with good sense, and devel
		ops important views in re
Its	}	lation to the annexation of Tex
char		as, and of the <u>designs</u> of the
acter		war with Mexico, to which
		people begin to open their eyes
		The Message was delivered
		presently by the Gov. Tuesday the
		12 <sup>th</sup> instant. I am gratified
		to find the affairs of the Com
		monwealth on so flourishing a
		condition, owing no doubt,
		to the correct policy now adopt
		ed by a majority of the peo
		ple of the state: and may we
		not hope that further diffusion
		of

Jany  
15 of correct principles, will at length  
do away the opposition to para  
republicanism to which some of  
our fellow citizens still adhere from  
a false notions of patriotism which  
never fail to bring confusion  
and ~~and~~ its concomitant evils  
where it is supposed

16 Saturday. Morn cloudy with fog  
and SW wind PM fair

Mexi }  
can }  
affairs }

Late accounts from Mexico  
say Santa Anna is advancing  
with a large force to cut off  
some of the detached divisions  
of our army, and that Gen.  
Worth, at Saltillo may be  
forced to retire to form a junc  
tion with Gen. Taylor's force.  
An army acting by distant  
detachments is liable to  
defeat, especially when the  
enemy is superior in force

Jany  
16  
Army }  
news }

Mili }  
tary }  
remarks }

And an army of superior force may become weakly when acting in detachments for and may be inferior to the force the enemy may bring against it. The scattered parts of the British army in New Jersey in 1776, and Burgoyne's detachment to Bennington in 1777, are instances of this kind both from a false confidence of superiority in ~~the~~ troops Santa Anna probably has studied those principles, and Mr Polk may find them difficult to deal with. That 6 or 7 millions of people can be conquered at a blow is not believed. The war may be protracted to years; but if we conquer her what benefit shall

Jany  
South  
ern  
views  
& plans

shall we derive from it?  
The southern people no  
doubt have a plan. They  
would divide the territory  
into states, establish slavery  
among them and admit them  
into a Southern Union, when  
accomplished they would  
separate from us & become  
a Grand slave holding gov  
ernment ultimately include  
ing the west India, Islands,  
and Guatemala would soon  
fall into their Grasp.

Re  
marks

But with a free nation which  
regards the rights of man for  
their neighbor, their slavery  
would not be a very quiet in  
stitution: and in case of a  
war between the two nations  
might be the ruin of the slave  
holding nations. Future History  
may find much to record in  
its volumes; and what will  
most

Jany  
16  
North  
ern  
blind  
ness }

most surprise futurity will  
be the fact that many of the  
northern people were so hood  
winked by party spirit, that  
they saw not their danger  
until too late to remedy the  
fatal evil.

Symp  
toms  
in Con  
gress }

Some of the members of Con  
gress who are willing to sup  
port the present war, have de  
clared that no more slave states  
shall be annexed to our union;  
this has advanced to south, and  
they are loud in their declara  
tions of a disunion of the states.

Effects  
of }

If slave states are to be added  
to the Union they express a readi  
ness to sustain the war; but  
not on the conditions that free  
states shall be brought into the  
the confederation. Will north  
ern men still repose in se  
curity under their state of things  
and indulge in the dream  
that we have nothing to do  
with slavery.

Jany  
16

Our Federal Constitution has been our pride, and indeed it made us a nation respected by the civilized world; but if perverted to the worst purposes, the principles of our declaration of independence repudiated and the conquest of a neighboring nation is to be effected to extend the power of slavery, it is time for the friends of liberty and the unalienable rights of men life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness—to look to the consequences and if possible, ward off the evil before it is too late. If our northern democracy still remain blind to the plans of southern oligarchy they richly deserve all the evils that are now preparing for them by their supposed southern friends. That this delusion should continue among our people, is one of the strangest anomalies of the human mind. One

Jany  
16  
Taxes }  
effects }  
of }

One saving remedy however is pre  
paring—the people will  
soon be called upon to de  
fray the expenses of the war,  
And when the taxgather ap  
pears the delusion will  
vanish like a fog before a hur  
ricane, but the ruin will re  
main to mark the folly of  
the present wild spirit, which  
the democracy of the north and  
the oligarchy of the south has  
imposed on the country. But  
let us hope the storm will be  
averted before it lays us in ruins

17

Sunday. Morn fair wind W  
and cold; the day the same

18

Monday. Morn cloudy.  
wind S.W. Pm Snow fell  
In tracing the operation of  
Armies in Mexico, I find a  
want of more extended maps  
and a good geographical description

of



Jany  
18

Our  
mili  
tary  
oper  
ation

the country than I possess.  
To judge of military move  
ments with any degree of  
correctness, and accurate know  
ledge of the country is necesse  
ry; such as descriptions of  
its rivers, lakes, plains, moun  
tains, forests, defiles, roads, and dif  
ficult passes, fortified places  
&c. Without a knowledge of  
these particulars the command  
er of an invading army is always  
liable to defeat, even with  
a superior numerical force.  
The success of Gen. Taylors  
battle has created a confi  
dence of the superiority of our  
troops, which may be lost  
by a few reserves. The mo  
ment volunteer corps find  
themselves beaten, they are  
little better than a mob  
and obedience to the command  
of their officers is at an end.

Jany

18

Mexi  
can force  
in the  
field



The Mexican force now under Santa Anna is estimated from 20,000 to 30,000, but the estimation is doubtful. If he is a prudent as well as a skillful commander he, like our Washington, will act on the defensive, avoid general battles, and avail himself of advantages & strong positions in his rear. The Fabian system is evidently his true course; and in a country so extended as that of Mexico, he may find a Torres Vedras tenable against even a Masena. With his 80,000 French men.

In our victories thus far, nothing is seen for b[o]asting. Mexico is still an extensive nation, and may secure her territory with

Jany  
18

A cordon of strong fortification, sufficient for her effectual defence.  
In short, from the small progress towards a conquest of the country during the nine months of war, I think it may be protracted much beyond the time anticipated by our reckless democrats.

19

Thursday. Morn fair wind W and the day generally clear and cold.

The  
10 regi  
ment  
bill }

The Bill for raising Mr Polks 10 new regiments of regulars in the old method, by appointment of the officers we are informed has passed the lower House in Congress and probably will pass the Senate. Had this step been taken at the commencement of the war the process of enlistment would

Jany

19

Remarks }  
on }

have been more rapid. A great portion of the volunteers whose enlistments are about to expire, will probably return to their homes and farms disgusted with the play in which they had so readily engaged, and the stories they will relate of the hardships & sickness they have endured, will be a [ ] er to the success of the recruiting officer. In time of peace where young men are charmed and bewitched by military show the case is different; then nothing of the hardships & horrors of ware are foreseen, even a battle is thought to be a pleasant sport. Where this spirit prevails recruiting may be rapid, especially in our large cities, where a portion of the population is always ready for anarchy and spoil—a spirit however which must be thoroughly modled

Jany  
19

modded before men possessing it  
can be made soldiers.

The folly of attempting to carry  
on war with corps of militia  
volunteers begins to be seen by  
a majority of Congress: and if  
the war with Mexico continues  
I trust we will be convinced that  
nothing short of a competent  
force of regular troops will con-  
quer Mexico, or bring her to equi-  
table terms of peace.

At the commencement of  
the war blind democracy saw no  
thing of this, a few corps of ri-  
flemen from the western regions  
were deemed competent for the  
conquest of any neighboring nation  
and when the Oregon boundary  
was adjusted, she expressed regret  
that an opportunity was lost for  
whipping Great Britain as well as  
Mexico.

The present war may teach us use-  
ful lessons namely that crude  
notions of liberty & equality embrace  
little of the elements of war, and  
that industry and economy are essen-  
tial to our happiness & prosperity.

Jany  
20

My im  
paired }  
eye sight }

Abated }  
my en }  
joy }  
ment }

My }  
former }  
read }  
ing }

Wednesday. Morn fair wind  
W. and day pretty cold  
The snow of moderate depth  
but good sleighing.

Since my eye sight has  
become so impaired as to  
render it difficult to read  
in the evening, I am de  
prived of much of my en  
joyment. While my eyes  
were good, I always found  
objects for entertainment  
and indeed, instruction,  
and when deprived  
of several friends, I often  
found my self most busi  
ly engaged.

In my various readings  
I have preferred the authors  
who give us scientific in  
struction. Most works

Jany

20

Works  
of fic  
tion  
of little  
value }

imagination & fiction such as novels & romances, I have held in little estimation, though I may have been pleased with their style and easy manner of handling language. I have always found them deficient in imparting rules and principles, like works of science, durable and useful. Indeed after having read one scientific author, I am led to another, and, in fact, find them all connected, and the sources of information unbound; and thus the man of a scientific taste is never at a loss for subjects that commend his attention.

Histo  
ry }

Next to scientific study is that of history, which one remarks is philosophy lacking by example  
and

Jany  
20  
Value }  
of }

and though, in its details much is found that is not immediately interesting, yet they give the outlines of man under almost all conditions in which he is placed, and of course are worthy of consideration.

No }  
tion }  
of young }  
men }

Young men, I observe, often neglect copious histories, and prefer fugitive scraps to concatenated details, which they consider as mostly records of lines unworthy of notice in these improved days.

Ancient history, it is true, contains much that is fabulous, but it also contains much that is true; and it is for the critical reader to separate the pure metal from the dross. Modern history, particularly so far as they relate to political affairs, is often distorted & miscoloured by party



Jany  
 20 writers, who have more re  
 gard to their schemes than  
 the truth. But the men of  
 sound principles are exten  
 sive service, is able to detect  
 the misrepresentations.

21 Thursday. Morn fair, wind  
 W. and cold air The day  
 generally fair  
 No proceedings of our Genl.  
 Court, for about a week past  
 This is rather anti republi  
can, while we have so many  
 rail-roads & magnetic telegraphs  
 in operation.

22 Friday Morn fair wind S.W.  
 and very cold last night &  
 this morn; day fair.  
 We often hear of expressions of  
 dissatisfaction, particularly  
 from Greenfield people, in rela  
 tion to the location of the rail  
 road through the northern part  
 of Deerfield to their village. This  
 error did not escape my notice  
 at

our  
 Rail }  
 road }

Jany

22

Unwise  
choice  
of routeDiffi  
culty  
of a  
cer  
tain  
action

at the time the location was made. A primary object should have been to gain an elevation to the Greenfield plateau where a depot should have been erected on that level, where an easy route might be found for a continuation of the road northward. By terminating the road at the present depot, above that plateau, I see no way for an ~~easy~~ extension, but by passing up Green river on a circuitous & difficult route, which will entirely shun that village. I am aware of the argument urged for the present route—namely to keep within a certain grade. This was a secondary object and ~~was~~ of no more weight than a feather, provided the grade did not exceed what is found practicable on many other routes. Whether the error in the location was owing to the obstinacy of the

Jany  
22

great  
expense  
of the  
road }

engineer, or the misjudgment of the directors of the company, I am not certain. But one thing is clear, the construction of the road has been attended with a monstrous unnecessary expense which, if not fatal to the enterprise, may be a great obstruction to its success. The cost of the road, from Springfield to Greenfield, is said to have been about one million of dollars; and who believes the company will find a profit on this out-lay. I wish for the prosperity of the road, but cannot avoid expressing my regret at the unwise locations and the consequent unnecessary expense; and also my fears that the embankments over some of the deep ravines, will give way before heavy rains, such as were once frequent here, of which the young men of the present day seem to have no adequate conceptions. Let but one of our old January thaws

Jany  
22

Danger  
from  
heavy  
rains }

now  
less  
fre  
quent }

or an early spring flood  
of former times occur & what  
would be their astonishment  
on viewing the destruction  
produced by their violence.  
Even one of the old thunder  
showers of summer would de  
posit water sufficient to sweep  
away the firmest embankments  
unless secured by ample and  
perfect culverts. These tremend  
ous and once common, effects  
of nature, have of late years be  
come less frequent, but they may  
return in all their vigor; and  
then the fragile works of man  
will be seen in all their weakness.  
Taking into consideration the  
cost of the road and its unfavor  
able location below the  
Greenfield plateau there is rea  
son to fear that a continu  
ation up the vally of the Con  
necticut will turn out a  
failure which would not have  
occurred had the road been  
wisely

Jany  
22

wisely located and the  
cost of construction been  
kept within due limits  
a failure all must consider  
unpropitious.

From the remarkable level  
ness of the route from Northamp  
to Cheapside, lending with the  
exception of our Wappin long  
hill, it was believed that about  
400,000 dollars would have  
covered the expense of construction  
to the Greenfield plateau; including  
the bridges, land, and the engine  
cars and all the necessary opera  
tions. If this estimate is too low  
then, I think, rail roads cannot  
be constructed & maintained on routes  
that do not command [ ]  
[ ] between great marts; and that  
the present rage for them, on routes  
for the accommodation of a few  
internal towns must subside, and  
the people content themselves with  
other well constructed roads with  
in their ability.

Jany  
23

Gen }  
Court }

Cush }  
ings }  
resolu }  
tion }

Rail }  
road }  
peti }  
tions }

Saturday. Morn fair wind  
SW and a fair day  
We have this day, after a  
lapse of a week, received a  
few details of the General Court  
but nothing of high import  
is, as yet, before them. The Hon  
Caleb Cushing's proposition  
for granting 20,000 dollars to  
Mr. Polk's Massachusetts vol  
unteers has been debated but  
no decision had.  
Petition for rail road  
grants are coming from va  
rious parts of the State  
for roads [—] in some interiors where if the roads  
could be constructed, the whole  
profits would not keep them  
in repair. This hasty zeal  
will not long continue to de  
ceive the industrious and  
economical farmers of the coun  
try, who will find that none  
but the great arteries of trade

Jany  
23

Re  
marks }

Bout  
well's  
resolu  
tion }

Re  
marks  
on }

can be supported and  
afford a profit. All short  
routes for the accommodation  
of a few interior towns, must  
of course be short-lived.

In the House of representative  
Mr Boutwell of Groton, has in  
traduced a resolve for expressing  
the thanks of the Legislature to  
Gen. Taylor and the men un  
der his command, for their brave fight  
ing in Mexico. If he possesses a dis  
cerning mind, he can have little  
expectation of the success of his reso  
lution. The Legislature no doubt  
are gratified that Americans in  
[ ] proper discipline still makes good  
soldiers; and they are ready to thank  
the general and his men for sus  
taining that character; but it is  
hardly to be supposed, that they  
will prefer thanks to invading  
troops, when right and justice  
are disregarded by those who or  
der the invasion, with a view of  
conquest, of territory, to satisfy their  
cupidity or ambition. Mr Boutwell  
may

Jany  
 23      may have other views—he  
          may wish for a list of the  
          yeas and nays on the quest  
          ion, for future reference  
          in the cause of democracy.  
 24      Sunday. Morn fair, & wind  
          SW. and day generally fair  
          air moderate.  
 25      Monday. Fair morn, wind  
          N.W. and the day clear.  
 Mr } I have just perused the Speech  
 Cush } of Mr. Cushing on the Bill for  
 ings } granting 20,000 dollars as a  
 speech } bounty for those volunteers of the  
          Massachusetts regiment, called for  
          by Mr Polk. Of Mr Cushings talent  
          as a public spearer, I have hereto  
          fore entertained a favorable impression  
          But in this speech I am com  
          pelled to say, that I have been un  
          able to perceive one solid argument  
          in support of the bill; and indeed  
          it does not rise to the dignity of  
          ingenious sophistry to which we  
          supposed him capable.



Jany  
25

Riot  
ed }

After attempting to show that Mr Polk's regiment is a part of the Massachusetts militia, which, by the by, has no bearing on the question, Mr Cushing becomes riotous. Here him: "Thinking the war unjust, do you therefore insist that these, your own men, shall die, not in the battle field, but of disease? Is this the humanity, this the conscience of Massachusetts? Will you by refusing to send them forth duly equipped, voluntarily, of malice aforethought, decide to kill them yourselves by the slow, but not less sure death of exposure in the camp or on the march?" (Mr Cushing foresees the fate of his poor fellows.) "I say, that for you to act on such a motion, to wreak on your militia your condemnation of the Federal Government, would be monstrous, horrible! No, you will not do this, you will instead adopt the only other course, consistent

Jany  
25

with honor, with humanity,  
with good conscience You  
will [ ] our troops. Those troops  
are your own militia, your own  
children, organized by our own  
Adjutant General, according to your  
own statutes, commissioned by your  
own Governor, marching under the  
banner of the Commonwealth. You  
will not of predetermined purpose  
send them to the field to suffer and  
die of imperfect equipment; but  
if conscience forbids you to equip  
them, it forbids you still more  
loudly to permit them to march  
to the shores of the Gulf or the banks  
of the Rio Grand. Disband them,  
disband them in Gods name; [ ]  
is let Massachusetts nullify at  
once a thousand times, than man  
ifest his conscience by the volun  
tary and purposed sacrifice of her  
brave Militia!”

In this rhapsody Mr Cushing  
doubtless had his views, and  
the galleries of the house were  
filled with patriots of the pure  
order. Like

Jany  
25

A [    ] }  
ile    }

Like Sir Knight in Hudabras  
 “When civil dungeon first grew high  
 And men fell out they knew not why  
 When hard words, jealousies and fears,  
 Set folks together by the ears  
 And made them fight like mad or drunk  
 For Dame Religion as for punk;  
 whose honesty they all durst swear for  
 Though not a man of them knew wherefore  
 When Gospel trumpeters surrounded  
 With long ear’d rout, to battle sounded,  
 And pulpit drum ecclesiastic,  
 Was beat with fist, instead of a stick;  
 Then did Sir Knight abandon dwelling  
 And out he rode a colonelling.<sup>7</sup>  
 Since Sir Knight delivered his  
 speech, he has been elected Colonel  
 of Mr Polk’s regiment of Massa  
 chusetts “own children” and the  
 the malaria of Mexico, and the  
 desperate fighting looked for  
 “under the walls of Vera Cruz or  
San Luis.” His men he knows, are not soldiers  
 they may be [    ] in camp, and feeble  
 in battle & headless of Sir Knight’s orders.

---

<sup>7</sup> From Samuel Butler’s *Hudibras*, Canto 1.

Jany  
26

The }  
Army }

Tuesday. Morn cloudy and  
wind NE the day cloudy  
snow at night.

The small progress of our  
forces in Mexico is a puzzle  
to democracy, for long be  
fore this day, they believed that  
our volunteers would be walking  
the halls of Montezuma. Nor  
did it occur to their minds, that  
methodical advances and sup  
plies of provisions &c were necessary  
for an invasion of an enemy's  
country. A few rifle hunters  
from the western states were  
to complete the task at a blow. Mr Polks  
Liet. General is now to in  
traduce a new system of move  
ment, ~~one~~ the experienced tactics  
of Generals Scott & Taylor to be  
laid aside, and the art of war  
as taught in the West point school  
to be abandoned, for utopian  
scheme which are to kill off  
an enemy "two at a blow" bal  
loon ascensions to be substituted for  
bomb batteries, and the old doctrine  
[     ] revised & corrected. Freely

Jany  
26  
March  
of im  
prove  
ment

Freely we are on the march to improvement, and why should the old art of war remain in the rear? Cotton gun-powder will soon come into vogue, and then the southern states will be able to blow up all opposition to their “institutions” sky high. This mode of improvement is to continue, if we can balance our Visionaries until law, morality, & religion are cast over among the rubbish of antiquity.” to be replaced by the perfect ability of man now [ ] ed in rapid stride within the United States; one in many instances, where science is the best known to the people at large, and genius is not crossed by “musty rules” of the schools. Wednesday Morn thickly cloudy, wind W. but soon fair, and so continued through the day with partly sharp air. Esqr Henry & wife arrived.

27

Jany  
28

The }  
Army }

Slow }  
progress }

Thursday Morn fair, wind  
SW and fair day and  
very clear.

From the proceedings of Con  
gress it appears that the  
Mexican War drags rather  
slowly; the volunteering spirit  
is much abated and Mr Polks  
“favorable season” is fast pass  
ing off. Another campaign  
under the rays of a Mexican  
sun, will pave other ground  
than the vally of Rio Grand, with  
the bones of our fated vol  
unteers. Our Massachusetts  
regiment, even with Mr Cush  
ings 20,000 dollars bounty, will  
not fail of adding their per  
fection to the extent of the pave  
ment.

We do not say that men com  
ing from the vicinity of Bunker  
Hill monument will be intimi  
dated by such reflection; but we  
think it behooves Mr Polk to

Jany	to transport them as soon as
28	possible, to the fields of Mexico
	where they will meet other scenes
	to call their attention, ill fitted
	to reflections of this kind.
29	<u>Friday</u> . Cloudy morn, wind
	NW; day cloudy some snow
Mass	The Boston Journal announces
Regi	that <u>Caleb Cushing</u> of Newbur
ment	ryport has accepted the com
	mand of the Massachusetts Vol
	unteers, with the rank of <u>Colo</u>
	<u>nel</u> , the other Field officers
Field	are, <u>Isaac H Wright</u> to Lt.
officers	Colonel (of Boston), and <u>Edward</u>
of	<u>W. Abbott</u> of Andover, Major
	The Gentlemen may possess
	the the requisite <u>Ambition</u>
	for their [    ] or they
	may find themselves <u>mis</u>
	<u>placed in the tented field</u> .
	The regiment consists of 10
	companies each under a Capt
	& 3 detachments, elected by the men

Jany

29

Men

young

&amp; igno

rant of

war

[ ]

enlisted for & during the war with Mexico; and consists of young men who have come upon the stage since the close of the war of 1812; and of course know nothing of the hardships & dangers of a campaign; And dazzled with military show now may be home and friends with apparent cheerfulness. But on disembarking in Mexico new scenes of war to view, not so thickly [ ] with flowers as they had anticipated. They march to the camp, and post under the iron hand of discipline, confined to narrow limits, taught to halt & march at the word of command, and no one allowed to entertain a thought {—} but that of subordination and implicit obedience to orders, no easy lessons for men brought up to unbound freedom to wild notion of liberty & equality or taught in



Jany

29

Lessons  
of [    ]  
[    ] }

our democratic schools  
under vociferous demagogues.  
After having, in some degree,  
become habituated to the discipline of  
the camp, with the modes of cook  
ing their provisions, washing their  
clothes, ~~and~~ lodging upon the ground  
and keeping free from vermin  
see these volunteers on the march  
through rain, & wind, midleg deep  
in our arid plains, where not  
ever a drop of water can be gath  
ered or where burning suns and  
arid deaths descend.” and who  
among them will fail to turn  
his eyes to his former home, and  
sigh at the turn of his enlistment.  
Will the pleasure of killing off Mex  
icans compensate for such hard  
ships?  
Some of these volunteers doubtless  
are harmless young men who with  
out reflection took the bated  
hook: Those demand our commu  
ication, while others of different  
character, can learn only by sad  
experience.

Jany  
30

Bill  
for vol  
unteer  
bounty  
in de  
bate

Saturday. Morn thinly cloudy, wind N.W. some rain and snow last night. Day partially fair.

The Bill for the grant of 20 thousand dollars to the Massachusetts volunteers, was under debate on the 25<sup>th</sup> instant, in the House; but I think it is time to put it at rest by yeas or nays. by a decisive negative. This day soon being made probably Mr Polk would order the regiment to the Rio Grand to commence its discipline and prepare it for killing Mexicans for daring to defend their liberty and property.

If Col. Cushing & his officers are to earn glory in such service, we readily award them all that honor, without grudging the boon.

31

Sunday. Morn fair, and wind W; thin clouds during the day; Robert B Williams, one of Arthurs surveying corps on the Plattsburg

[ ]

Jany  
31

rail road, arrived here this  
day He crossed the lake on  
the ice to Burlington where  
he left the other part of the corps  
to finish some further work  
1847.

February

1.

The  
County  
Bill  
defeated }

Monday Morn cloudy  
wind N; air cold; the  
day continued cloudy~  
The Volunteer bounty Bill.  
was refused a third reading  
in our hose of representative  
on Thursday the 28<sup>th</sup> instant, by  
yeas 47, nays ~~244~~ 191. Massa  
chusetts is hardly ready to offer  
a bounty on Mexican scalps,  
The state is ready to contribute  
millions for defence, but not a  
cent for tribute on moccasins.  
If Mr Polk's volunteers are called  
to the field without sufficient pay  
and equipments, he and his  
party must see to the error.

Feby

1

Mr Cush  
ing's re  
signation

Re  
marks  
on

Feel  
ings  
of the  
house

Among a free people who regard the rights of man, an unjust war will never be popular nor successful. Mr Cushing member of the house from Newburyport, having been commissioned Col. of the regiment of volunteers made an impressive address to the house & resigned his seat. Every eye was turned upon him. They saw with regret, one whose ambition had overcome his prudence, and which is a worthy cause, would have excited respect. To a brilliant mind, they saw united a restless spirit which generally leads to disappointment and remorse. If successful in acquiring military form, they saw it would end in a bubble, and the disgrace of his country in a war illegally waged for the conquest of a neighboring

Feb  
1

on  
the  
occa  
sion

republic, contending for its  
rights & liberty.

The Colonel has now entered up  
on a career novel to himself, ~~and~~  
and it remains to be seen whe  
ther experience will teach him  
that he has chosen one that is suited  
to his ambition and his taste  
should he be unfortunate let him  
remember that his position was  
chosen by himself and [ ]

2

The  
volun  
teer  
Reg  
iment

ated by his country or friends  
Tuesday. Morn cloudy, wind  
SW, and some snow fell, the  
day continued cloudy~

Mr Polk's volunteer regiment  
from this state, still remains  
at Boston, but if not soon  
embarked for Mexico, the  
men may become mutinous  
and discretion may prevail  
Should these [ ] & severe  
punishments be resorted to, the  
officers could soon find that men  
to whom they are indebted for their  
promotion, are not be unnec  
cessity reduced to obedience. In

Feb'y

2

Want of  
Subordi  
nation }

3

Gen.  
Taylors  
letter on  
further  
opera  
tion  
in Mexi  
co }

In a newly raised crops  
of this description the officers  
will never be able to introduce  
that subordination and ready  
obedience of orders essential  
in an army, and without  
which, the men are but [    ]

Wednesday. Morn cloudy  
& rainy, with NW. wind; then  
day the same, rain considerable

A Letter from Gen. Taylor  
of the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 1846  
to a friend (Said to be Gen. George  
of New-York) after detailing his  
movements to Monterey & and  
Saltillo, and expressing his opinions  
of penetrating the country to the  
City of Mexico, by the route of  
the latter, he recommends to our  
Government, to take possession of  
of the time we would accept  
by a negotiation extending from  
the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific oce  
an, at the same time closely block  
adding the coast, on both waters,  
and to act on the defensive.

Feby

3

A line  
propos  
ed }

The line he proposes, would be some distance south of the mouth of Rio Grand, [ ] all on this side of the Sierra Madre, and will include six or seven states or provinces of Mexico.

Pu  
ny }

Will this conquest satisfy the rapacity of Mr Polk & his party? No thing short of the City of Mexico was their signal design, and this conquest was to have been the work of only a few months with a force principally of volunteers from our western & southern wilds. If Gen. Taylor's plan be adopted & the Mexicans submit to the demarcation, still thousands of our forces will strew the ground with their bones, when the sun powers his direct rays upon them

Les  
sons  
taught }

Two things may be taught by this war: 1<sup>st</sup> That we are not so strong a military nation as we had supposed: 2. That when an invasion of a neighboring country is attempted, a competent regular force must be prepared, previous to the attempt

Febby

3

Our  
proper  
imple  
ments

Remarks  
on Gen  
Taylors  
Letters

These two lessons may teach us also that in a new country the ax and pruning hook are the proper implements for a people extending their settlements over a wide region, and should not be laid aside for the rifle & tomahawk.

From Gen. Taylors letter it appears he had relinquished their plan of further invasion of Mexica by the Sultillo routes because of the difficulty of carrying provisions on so long a route, and the want of a sufficient force; the distance from the Rio Grand bay to Sultillo being 200 miles and from the latter to ~~Mexico~~ San Luis Potosi City 360 miles. and the country from Sultillo to San Luis Potosi a barren one, and almost without water. If he takes the sea coast route it will be exceedingly disastrous to his troops in the hot season. all these difficulties should,



Feby  
3

Democ  
cracy  
heed  
less }

and would have been foreseen  
by a wise administration.  
But democracy takes no time  
for reflection, but dashes on  
regardless of consequences and  
its art of war is not less ab  
surd than its politics, both  
taking no lesson from experience  
or long established rules:  
It has been stat[e]d that Gen Taylor  
will retire from the Army on the  
arrival of Gen. Scott. If this happens  
it will be inferred that he is un  
willing to act as a second; But  
perhaps his retirement may be  
from other causes: already he is  
considered that his operation have  
not met the entire approbation  
of Mr Polk, and the General may  
deem the change of command  
convenient opportunity to extra  
cate himself from the dictation  
of an incompetent source at the  
Capitol. At any rate the con  
quest of Mexico is not so easy a task  
as was predicted by our voided democracy.

Feby	<u>Thursday</u> Morn fair, wind
4	W. and cold air.
River broke up }	Last night the river broke up with a considerable use of water, from the thaw of yester day. the day fair~
Breach in the Rail road }	The rain of yesterday we are in has caused a breach on the rail way in Hatfield, An embank ment giving way. Such acci dents show a want of fore sight in the Engineer. Similar accidents I fear will occur in the part of the road entirely of our village. When difficult ravines are seen crossed by the road.
5	<u>Friday.</u> Morn fair, wind N.E. and the day fair.
Rut land rial road }	<u>Vermont Rutland Rail road.</u> This road, to extend from Bur lington southerly to Otter Creek, and thence up the creek to Rutland and over Mt. Holly and down the val ley of Black river to Bellows-falls, is about to be commenced; contracts

Feby  
5

Re }  
marks }  
on }

Mt }  
Holly }

for the greatest part of the route having been made. The whole work will probably cost upwards of two millions of dollars, and as the Capitalist of Boston have enlisted on the more northerly route from Burlington to Connecticut river, I apprehend that the people of the interior of the Country will find it difficult to raise the necessary sum though it is said the stock is taken up. The route has one difficult point to encounter: Viz at Mount Holly; and whether the road can be carried over it with a practicable grade, is a question and some appropriate machinery may be necessary to carry up the trains; the other parts of the route I believe will require no high grades. But both routes will be rivals for the Boston trade, which will lessen the value of each. When the Plattsburgh & Ogdensburgh road is completed a vast trade will be opened to the NW. and perhaps

Feby

5

Multi  
placation  
of Rail  
Roads,  
effects  
of



both routes cross Vermont may force sufficient business to render them profitable. But in general the multiplication of rail roads, between any two great marts, is unfavorable~ The most eligible route will rival the others, and alone find support and which of the two routes from Burlington will be fortunate one must be determined by experience. The whole length from Burlington to Bellows-falls, by the Rutland route, I estimate at about 120 miles If then the Central route by Montpelier, shall become the main artery for the Boston trade, the Rutland route can hardly be sustained if constructed. The route it is true, passes through a valuable section of Vermont which contains a considerable population; but can ill afford to defray the cost of the road without strong aid from Boston.

Feby

6

Coast  
sur  
vey }Saturday Morn fair, wind

NE, day fair

Elizabeth, sat out for Halifax  
with her brother & little CharlesReceived a Report from the  
superintendant of the Sea Coast  
survey, for the year ending No  
vember 1846. The Report fre  
quently mentions my friend  
Charles O. Boutelle, an assistant  
to Mr Bache, and it appears  
he had been on the Coast of the  
Carolinas, part of the time and  
otherwise employed in import  
ant services in the Survey.From the ready method of his  
long mathematical calculations, his  
knowledge in the use of instruments  
and of practical astronomy, and  
his thorough experience I think my  
friend Boutelle must be in im  
portant assistant to Mr BacheThe Report contains several  
sketch maps of the Survey

Feby		<u>Sunday</u> Morn fair, and NE
<u>7</u>		and day fair Snow,
8		at this time, of small depth
Dam	}	<u>Monday.</u> Morn partially
age		fair, wind NW and day
by rain		fair.
		We hear of considerable
		damage from the late rain &
		wind, which were not very
		severe at this place. What would
		be the damage sustained by one of
		the <u>older times storms</u> ! Our young
		people have no adequate concept
		tions of their destructive effects.
9		<u>Tuesday.</u> Morn fair, wind va
		riable from S.W. to N.E.; the day
		was fair~
The	}	The objects & designs of the war
War		with Mexico are dayly becoming more
		obvious. In the Congress [    ]
		<del>of representative</del> , Feby 2d, Mr Sevier <sup>8</sup>
		said, "The President and the Govern
		ment were willing to make peace

---

<sup>8</sup> Ambrose Hundley Sevier (1801-1848) was a Democratic Senator from Arkansas. He resigned from the Senate in 1848 to become Ambassador to Mexico and negotiate the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

Feby  
9

Design  
of the  
War }

Bold  
ness }

New  
states }

if Mexico would give us in  
demnity for the war, or New-  
Mexico and Upper California.  
But the discerning mind need  
ed not this ungrounded alterc  
ation, to convince it of the terpi  
tude of the war: for the Pres  
idents order to Gen. Taylor to march from  
the Nueces to the Rio Grand was  
sufficient to show the design~  
Perhaps a war more base &  
unjust, never was waged by a civ  
ilized nation. Our crazy demo  
cracy is at the [     ], and Mr  
Polk is the agent to carry it out.  
The millions of cost, may, at  
length, “set the people to rights.”  
But new states will be annexed  
to the Union, provided they consent  
to tolerate slavery; and a portion  
of northern democracy are as  
regardless of the rights of man  
as they are ignorant of repub  
licanism and wise government.  
Once let the people open their eyes to  
this sentiment, and these demagogues would [     ]

Feby  
9

Feder  
alists }

and the people once more return to the respectable standing they sustained under Washington and his co-patriots, before the disorganizing principles gained the ascendancy within our Union.

First in proportion to our aberration from the principles of Washingtonian federalism, has been our departure from prosperity [ ] and happiness. This aberration produced the war of 1812, and now that with Mexico, and will continue so to operate, until the people shall open their eyes to the demagogues who have & still disturb a wise system of Government. These, said Washington have been the curse of the Country. and what a pity it is, that they are not made to become the evil?

At the time of our revolution and of the formation of our federal government, honest and able men were esteemed; but



Feby  
9

since those days men of loose principles & mediocrity of talents have arisen who finding that one horrible course was no path to promotion, they have endeavored to succeed by delusion and in fact, have [ ] [ ] the minds of the common people, and have succeeded in producing a belief that talents & worth are the elements of aristocracy; and that no eminent man should not be intrusted with a high office. There [ ] [ ] for 30 years past, has been descending in the scale of intellect, and the President except in one or two instances, has been selected for his known subserviency to party, rather than for his elevated talents & probity. Who will be our next President is extremely uncertain; he may be James K. Polk, but his [ ] party are not very faithful to their leaders; he may be [ ] from obscurity & placed on the white horse. To conduct

Feb'y  
9

Affairs of the nation under  
the dictation of his party  
always committing his favorites

In his appointments & contin  
uously avoiding northern men.  
We have a Webster, a Clay, a  
M'Lean & others, who would  
be [ ] to the Country; but  
their talents & probity will  
preclude them from high station  
so long as democracy has  
the [ ]

The present democratic party  
may be demolished by one  
of their whirlwinds; but ano  
ther will arise, not less hete  
rogenous and thus our gov  
ernment will forever be kept  
in a turmoil, and may end  
in anomaly; and all this under  
a future of reform God grant  
that we may escape the furious  
hurricane that threatens us.

10

Wednesday Morn cloudy with  
some snow, and wind N.  
the day continued cloudy.

Feby

10

vol. 4

Exploring  
expe  
ditionExploring Voyage Vol. 4<sup>th</sup>

This Vol. includes the voyage from Honolulu to the Oregon territory, with the various surveys of the coast and interior: the loss of the Peacock and of the vessels of the Squadron, off the mouth of the Columbia, and their departure for the bay of San Francisco on the west coast of America.

On the voyage from Honolulu the Island of Hawaii was visited and described, and several other islands.

The Oregon country is partly fed by [     ], with the Hudson Bay settlers, the missionary stations and the manners & customs of the Indians, with the Salmon fishings &c. The monstrous size of the [     ] trees [—][—] is noted. Some which had fallen & measured 235 in length one at the height of 10 feet from the roots was 35 but in circumference 150 feet of straight shaft. Some are said to be 300 feet in height.

Feby  
11

Congress }  
Session }

Thursday Morn fair, wind  
NW and fair day.  
We have now but a small  
depth of snow, but the roads  
are so covered with ice, that the  
sleighbing continues tolerably good.  
The session of Congress is  
now drawing to a close, and  
what further measures that bo  
dy will adopt for carrying on  
Mr Polk's war we know not.  
The ten new regiments of regu  
lars are to be enlisted and dis  
ciplined for the service, and this  
is a slow process, for which de  
mocracy has not [    ]: and  
Col. Cushings volunteers still re  
main at Boston, we suppose  
under drill in stove warmed  
apartments. Would not be will  
to try their legs at least on Bos  
ton common? But the poor  
fellows are in "drilling  
& trinkets," which Massachusetts  
declines furnishing by a bounty of  
20,000 dollars; and it is said the  
companies are not filled up to the

Feby  
11

Vol  
unteers  
in  
Mex  
ico

amount required by Mr Polk.  
Three years volunteers now with  
Gen. Taylor are near the close of their  
term of service, and my word for it  
they are looking towards their friends  
and homes, and will be willing  
to return to their proper employ  
ments, with chastened zeal for  
military service. Mr Polks "favor  
able time" is fast wearing away  
and the Mexican malaria is  
advancing to afford its aid to  
the Mexicans. What a force is  
a volunteer war, and, especially  
one of invasion!  
But, suppose Mr Polk conquers  
Mexico, will he be able to hold it  
in subjection without a standing  
army of at least 20,000 men?  
Our democrats were not aware  
of this; They supposed the Mexi  
cans would grasp seize the first oportu  
nity to embrace seize our liberty & equality  
and rejoice at the change of  
condition. Today we are the  
"most enlightened nation in the world"  
what a pity we have not [    ] a  
war with Great Britain at the same  
time?

Febry  
11

Elizabeth returned about  
sun set from Halifax with  
her little Charles, by stage  
to Greenfield.

12

Friday Morn fair wind  
SW. and day fair

Scien  
tific }  
exhi  
bition }

An Exhibition to be at our Town  
Hall this Evening by W.F. Somerby  
and others on the nature of the  
Magnetic Telegraph, with other  
scientific [     ]

Two telegraphs placed in diff  
erent parts of the House will be  
made to write before the audience  
another whole operation ex  
plained.

Many other curious experi  
ments to be preformed.

One of the gentlemen brought  
to my room, the magnetic telegraph  
and exhibited its operation. The  
machine is small, not exceeding  
in bulk some of the instruments  
of the same nature in our acad  
emy. Gun powder action to be  
exploded & explained, and the  
laws of gravity suspended by electricity.

Feb		Tickets 12 ½ cents. The
12		whole will no doubt be wor
		thy of the attention of the phi
		losophic student, since some
Re	}	of the experiments are not
marks		found in our books.
on		This mode of instruction I do not
		esteem the least, since it is apt to
		lead to superficial views, from
		the want of an elementary
		course of discipline
13		<u>Saturday</u> . Morn fair, wind
		NW, but most of the day
		proved cloudy~
		My Son Arthur arrived in
		this evening, having been absent
		5 Months, an 5 days, on the
		survey of the Plattsburgh rail
		road. with Mr. Hayward.
		<u>Sunday</u> . Morn cloudy
		wind W; the day partially
		fair, and pretty cold
		<u>Monday</u> Morn cloudy, wind
		SW but most of the day
		fair with scattering clouds.

Feby

15

My  
sons  
appoint  
ment  
& plan

My son Arthur having recd  
an appointment as Engineer on the  
Burlington & Rutland Rail  
road to Bellows falls on the  
Connecticut, is about to remove  
his family to Burlington to take  
up their residence while he is  
employed on the road, his pay  
about 1500 dollars per year—his  
section about 51 miles.

Mr Wm B. Gilbert, who has much  
the surveys on the route, is the  
principal Engineer. Of the suc  
cess of the road I have expressed  
some doubts, but I understand  
that capitalists in Boston have  
become engaged in the enterprise  
and this may ensure the com  
pletion of the work.

To be deprived of my connections  
at my age, is depressing to my  
feelings, but I must submit  
to circumstance.

If my friends part with me with  
out regret, I am unable to assign  
the



Feby  
15

cause, for I have endeavored  
to promote their happiness &  
prosperity; nor do I doubt  
that there are those who are friendly  
and would learn with my  
inspiration. At no time are  
such men wanted than when  
old age has rendered the ani  
mal machine feeble and  
helpless; then the labor of friend  
ship should be pured in to  
render the aged as comfort  
able as possible, during  
their short [    ]

While I lament this separa  
tion of our family I would  
not [    ] objections to my  
sons course in business im  
portant to his welfare, but  
only regret the necessity which  
presume it.

His taste for the study of civ  
il Engineering has been ardent, and  
his practice for several years  
past has rendered him capable of one

per

Feby  
 15      fect service to the public; and  
          my hope is that he may rend  
          er forth faithful service in that  
          which he is now engaged.

16      Wednesday. Morn windy, wind  
          N and day cloudy.

Trans }  
 fers of }  
 land    }  
 &c      }

         This day gave deed to my Son  
          Arthur of my harvested lots & all  
          buildings at the south part of Deer  
          field street; banded south land  
          Rufus Sexton & Mr Wait; and at  
          sometime took a Deed from said  
          Arthur of some undirected part of  
          his home lot & buildings, bounded south  
          on Dr Joseph Goodhue & the [    ] on  
          which I now reside; and by a bond  
          [    ] myself to [    ] to his said  
          one half of the lot on his payment  
          to me thirteen hundred dollars.  
          He on the same day conveyed  
          my old lot to John Forbes  
          part of the payment secured by a  
          mortgage from said Forbes on said lot.

Miss }  
 Bagley }

         Miss Bagley, one of the Cushing corps  
          gave me a call—an intelligent Lady.

Feby  
17  
(1857)

Exhi }  
bition }

Wednesday. Morn cloudy  
wind N. : Some snow last night  
the day mostly fair  
The exhibition which was to  
have been made at our Town Hall  
on the 12<sup>th</sup> instant (as mentioned on  
page 86) took place last night, with  
a pretty full audience; the expe-  
riments I am informed were cu-  
rious & satisfactory. The Corps is  
to perform at Greenfield this even-  
ing, a second time.  
Thus our young men have an easy  
and cheap method of obtaining a smat-  
tering of philosophy. But as says  
the Poet "Seek science in her coy abode"  
as a preferable method. Such ex-  
periments are of great use to the  
methodical student, but generally  
lost on the multitude who can  
not be made learned.

Mr }  
Somer }  
by }

Mr Somerby, the principal of the  
courses made me a call—appear sci-  
entific and agreeable- Resides in  
Boston or Newburyport. Success  
to the progress of useful science!

Feb'y

18

Depart  
ure of  
my son  
& family

Re  
marks  
on

Thursday. Morn fair wind  
N.E., day fair and wind to S.W  
This day about 10 clock,  
my son Arthur, his wife Eliza  
beth and their little Charles took  
the rail road cars for Greenfield  
on their journey to Burlington  
Vt., there to reside during his  
employment on the Rail road  
from Burlington to Rutland &  
thence to Bellows falls. From  
Greenfield they proceed in a  
stage Coach by Brattleborogh.  
I have expressed my sensations on  
this separation of our family  
(on page 89) and can only add,  
my ardent wishes for the prosperity  
and happiness of my departed  
connections.  
The business in which my son  
is engaged, is arduous and requires  
assiduous application; but it  
seems exactly suited to his taste  
and habits which are of the  
“go a head sort” and few I believe

Feb  
18

Energy  
of char  
acter }

possess more energy in prosecuting a work one commended a trait in the character of an Engineer, if it be regulated by due consideration, of great importance The route of the road lies through a country inhabited principally by New England people, whose manners & customs are of the same cast, and I trust, very different from the people of Illinois where my son was several years employed in his profession.

19 Friday. Morn cloudy wind N. PM Snow fell

20 Saturday Morn cloudy, wind N.E. and day cloudy

21 Sunday Morn cloudy with snow & N wind; the day continued much the same.

22 Monday Cloudy morn, wind NE. Snow at yesterday & last night 4 or 5 inches. The day proved snowy most of the time.

Febby  
22

Exploring }  
voyage }  
Vol. 5 }

Re }  
marks }  
on }

Exploring Expedition Vol. 5 & last.

This Vol. contains the transactions on the Columbia river, in Oregon, the arrival at St. Franciscan in upper California, & transactions thence; the return to the Pacific Islands, then to Mairella, Singapoor in Malasia and thence round the Cape of Good home, touching at St Helena, to New York City, June 10<sup>th</sup> 1842.

The most important discovery of Land is the southern Continent which is now established, I think, with certainty. Surveys have been made of several groups of Islands, and their condition detailed beyond what were before known; and on the whole I think, the Expedition has been useful & honorable to our Country. The separate Reports of the Scientific corps, it is hoped, will be printed to the public in full, as they will be the most interesting to the men of science.

The work as written by the Commander, Charles Wilkes USN is minute in detail; and were I to point at any faults, I should

Feby  
22

say, he sometimes dwells too much upon non important items, which may be {——} common place remarks lation, not altogether interesting to men of science. But as the work is intended for general perusal, perhaps those will not be deemed defects. The plates & wood cuts are numerous, but rather too delicate & soft for old eyes; and in the former the titles are so indistinct that they cannot be read without a magnifier—A fault now become common with Engineers. Why thus attempt to render obscure what may be made plain? I do not see. The voyage commenced in 1838 and ended in 1842, just about a century after that of Lord Anson of England. On a perusal of the two voyages, the ~~curious~~ critical observer will notice the improvement that have been made in the Navigation of Ships during the past century. Prior to that period no certain methods of determining Longitude was practiced and dead reconing was relied on but

Feb  
22

but always extremely uncertain,  
and the ships place doubtful.  
The various modes of determining  
longitude by celestial observations  
and by chronometers has re-  
moved the uncertainty; and  
the outline of the land in  
all parts of the globe, is now  
ascertained with an accuracy  
hardly anticipated a century  
ago, and the health of the  
crews rendered as same as a  
journey on land. Other islands  
may yet be discovered on the  
wide ocean, but the principal  
groups, it is believed, have been  
visited and then positions as-  
signed on the map of the world.  
It now remains to diffuse the  
arts, sciences and civilization  
through all parts of the earth  
and to render man worthy of  
the dignity of human beings.

23

Tuesday Morn fair, wind N.E  
the snow now deeper than  
at any time during the winter  
Day fair throughout.



Feby  
24

The }  
War }  
at bay }

Wednesday. Morn fair, wind  
N.E., cold air and clear day.  
When President Polk ordered Gen.  
Taylor to advance into the Mexican  
territory and commence a war  
for conquering the country, what  
democrat doubted that the  
march to the city of Mexico would  
be effected within a few months  
and the nation conquered at a  
stroke, by a small army of  
militia volunteers? The war now  
seems to be quiescent; The first  
volunteers have nearly served out  
their time of service, new corps are to push  
on to take their places, and ten  
new regiments of regulars are  
to organized & enlisted for the service.  
In short the war seems just com  
menced, and our wild war hawks  
may learn from this, that we  
are not quite so ready for war as  
they had supposed. The blind con  
fidence entertained of success, is to be  
explained only on the ignorance of  
of a majority of ~~the~~ our people, of military op  
erations, & the art of war.

Feby  
25

our  
volun  
teers }

A  
mu  
tiny }

Thursday. Morn cloudy, wind  
NE and some snow falling. Be  
tween 9 and 10 sun broke out  
and the day fair

Eight companies of Col. Cushings  
volunteer regiment have embarked  
in Boston harbor, for Mexico, the  
2 others, not being in readiness, re  
main under command of Major  
Abbott. A specimen of mutiny  
was whether by the Irish company  
Boston embarking, the men refused  
to go on board until they had re  
ceived the advanced pay, which they  
alleged had been promised and they  
returned, in a body to their barracks.  
A detachment was sent to enforce  
obedience, and through the address  
of Col. Cushing, they consented to em  
bark. From this specimen of in  
subordination, Col. Cushing & his of  
ficers, may see the difficulties  
they have to encounter in com  
manding volunteers; and the my  
stery is, that one so well informed  
as is the Colonel, that he should  
be willing to be placed at the head  
He will probably [    ] his folly

Feby

25

Lack  
discip  
line of  
volunteers

Court  
marti  
al on  
board

Ef  
fects  
of a  
choice  
of offi  
cers

when the men are put to the rigid duties of the camp, and probably appreciate the remark of Washington that no man who regards his home will risk his reputation in the command of such troops. A Court martial it appears ~~said~~ has been ordered on board one of the vessels, for the trial of several of the offenders, but it must be cautious of inflicting severe punishment, since the officers depend on the men for their places. They will, no doubt, soon see the justness of the remark of Genl. Mercer of the Revolution. That giving the men the choice of their officers, will forever mar the discipline of armies." Our volunteer officers, seem not to have attended to this fact. Our notice of military discipline have been imbibed from the show of militia parades, as trifling as useless. The idea that every able bodied man is a soldier, must be relinquished or a standing force kept up in time of peace. This however I think

Feby  
25

Re  
fec  
tions }

might be avoided by adopting a wise system of militia discipline, very different from the present system, which is in fact, but a show, that bewilders rather than instructs. If Col. Cushings regiment reaches Mexico, without further mutiny he will be fortunate, but many of his men will turn their long ing eyes to their homes before the war closes, and all will find that their path of duty is not strewn with roses. My pity is excited when I view them marching under the rays of a vertical sun, and struggling with the malaria of Mexico. Poor fellows! How little did they anticipate such scenes and rifled on the number that will form the ground with their bones in a war waged for the conquest of a neighboring country fighting in defense of its liberty and rights.~

Last evening we people had a meeting and started a subscription for the relief of the starving

Feby  
25

people of Ireland from whom we have the most thrilling accounts in the papers. The subscription will be money & Indian corn to be forwarded by rail road to Boston where a committee is appointed to receive whatever is contributed, and arrangements made to ship it to Ireland with all possible speed. The famine is supposed to be owing to the loss of the potato crop which has been the chief support of the poor of Ireland. Other parts of Europe are said to be suffering from the same cause, particularly Scotland. It now becomes the duty of all the hands of humanity to contribute their mite. Great numbers it is said have already famished & died, & probably the number will be horribly increased before supplies can be obtained.

26

Friday. Morn fair, wind NE & cold air, and a fair day followed. Yesterday died Zenus Hawks of this town

27

Saturday Morn cloudy, wind N.E. with considerable snow

Feb'y 27

during the day. Winter  
 now puts on its dreary  
 aspect and promises  
 to continue some time.  
 The famishing condition of  
 the poor in Ireland & Scotland  
 as given in our papers cannot  
 fail to excite the sympathy of  
 every humane man in our  
 country, and we are grati-  
 fied to learn that our town  
 are now existing the means  
 of affording relief by subscription  
 of money or bread stuffs to be  
 forwarded to a Committee in  
 Boston who are making ar-  
 rangements for shipping the  
 relief to the proper ports for  
 delivery. The distance across the  
 Atlantic is great, and while we  
 contribute our miles we are  
 fearful they may not arrive  
 [     ] to save the lives of  
 the sufferers. But if fleets of steam  
 ships could be loaded in all of  
 our ports one fort night would  
 carry

Feby 27	carry them to the famishing lands and save many from impending death. In such an employment what a contrast is presented to the war which <u>democracy</u> has waged against Mexi co, for the purpose of plundering & possessing her nations territory!
28	<u>Sunday</u> . Morn cloudy, wind W, last night some rain; day cloudy but sun occasionally seen and air cold.
<u>March</u>	
<u>1</u>	<u>Monday</u> Morn fair, wind NW, and day particularly fair & cold Our annual meeting for choice of town officers & the regulation of its affairs the ensuing year. In these meetings the business is generally conducted without much disorder, excepting when the <u>democratic spirit becomes</u> <u>wild</u> , in which case disorder appears, especially in the towns where the parties are nearly equal

An  
nual  
meet  
ing }

March

1  
Engineering  
to be taught  
in the  
Cambridge  
University

A new and advanced department to be called the Scientific School at the University of Cambridge, in which engineering, working of metals, road making and practical sciences are to be taught. Students may enter the school in similar terms to those established to the law school. (Says the newspapers) Annual expense 1000 dollars.

Re  
marks  
on

A good mathematician may become a scientific Engineer without wading through the other studies of the University. These branches of science might be substituted for some others taught in the University and nothing essential lost to practical man.

A University education is supposed to embrace all branches of knowledge; but its in fact is [ ] is only preparatory to the study of the professions found among us When the student, thus prepared, selects his profession  
he



March

1  
 Profes  
 sional  
 studies }

he must concentrate his  
 general knowledge to the prin  
 cipal points of his profession  
 and by an assiduous course  
 of study, joined to practice, he  
 may become eminent. Much  
 however depends on a taste for  
 his profession without which  
 he will never excel.

2

Tuesday. Morn fair, wind W  
 followed with a fair day & brisk  
 cold air.~

According the latest advices our  
 army under Gen. Scott, was moving  
 forward coast wise, to invest Vera  
 Cruz, and carry it by seige~  
 The distance from that place is stated  
 at 200 miles from the City of Mex  
 ico and the country broken and  
 mountainous; and should Scott suc  
 ceed, the latter city will still be  
 beyond his grasp. In our revo  
 lutionary war, the capture and  
 possession of our principal sea-ports  
 was but a small advance towards  
 a conquest of the Country. Then containing about  
 half the number of the present Mexicans

March  
3

Embark  
ation  
of our  
troops  
for Mexi  
co

Wednesday. Morn fair  
wind S.W. and clear day  
winter still in full vigor.  
The whole of the Massachu  
setts regiment of volunteers has  
embarked at Boston for some  
port in Mexico, where prob  
ably it will arrive about the  
commencement of the hot season.  
If ordered to the siege of Vera  
Cruz, and to service in that  
clime during the hot season,  
we think ~~but~~ but a small  
portion will return to their  
New England homes after  
the war is ended.  
The democratic spirit may have  
induced the young men to engage  
in the service, but how horri  
bly they will be disappointed  
when the iron hand of discipline  
is laid upon them and no  
demagogues are found urging  
them to the ballot boxes. With  
the officers, the bubbly [ ]  
may have been the [ ] cause  
but even they may find themselves [ ]  
placed in the [ ] fields of Mexico.

March  
 3  
 Design  
 of the  
 war }

But for what purpose are  
 these troops jeopardizing their lives?  
 Not for the defense of their country  
 Not for the propagation of  
 liberty and the rights of man!  
 No! but for the base purpose of  
 conquest of a neighboring republic. Impartial history will  
 present this outrage in all its  
 turpitude, and the present  
 nations of Europe will learn  
 how little reliance is to be placed  
 on our sense of justice & right.  
 But at the same time they will  
 perceive that the war was waged  
 by wild democracy, and depreciated by the true friends of the  
 country and by mankind at  
 large. A more happy disposition, it is hoped, is now germinating in the old states of the  
 Union, especially in the northern section; and may all in the  
 Union once more return to the  
 tried principles of Washington and  
 his co-patriots, the only system that  
 can render us prosperous & honorable.

March

4

Congress }  
 Session }  
 close of }

The }  
 War }

Thursday. Morn partially cloudy  
 wind NW day fair & clear  
~~This~~ Yesterday closed the session of  
 Congress and Mr Polk is left  
 to manage the war on his  
 own discretion by and with the  
 advice of Senator Benton, who, though  
 not elevated to the rank of Leut.  
 General, may be the Presidents  
 confidential counselor. But one  
 thing is clear, that neither he nor  
 Mr Polk, can no longer disguise the mo  
 tives of the war; for the people be  
 gin to perceive its turpitude, and the  
 cost may at length "set them to rights"  
 The war, however, may teach our  
wild war hawks, that we are not  
 so powerful military nation as they  
 had supposed; ~~and~~ that war found  
 ed on injustice and rapacity, is  
 not to be sustained by a moral  
 people, and that the ax, the  
 plow, & other implements of agri  
 culture, are the proper weapons  
 for our backwoodsmen, instead of  
 the rifle & tomahawk.  
 Our General Court is still in  
 session and a multiplicity

of

March

4

Our  
Gen }  
Court }

business before it which may hold out the session to April if not later. I have regretted that a more expeditious mode of transacting business has not been adopted and I think this is practicable. One fourth of a year for the transaction of the business of a state, like ours, is extravagant & calls for correction.

The Vermont Legislature accomplishes their annual business within about a month, and if we allow double that times for ours, one would suppose ample time would be given for the transactions of all important business in ours.

5

Friday. Morn fair wind

SW. and day fair

Newspaper reports say, a detachment of nearly 100 Kentucky cavalry, has been surprised and captured by a strong force of

Lt. }  
Clay }

Mexican lancers: Among the Officers is Cassius M. Clay the noted Editor of the an Anti-Slavery paper in Kentucky. By those who have witnessed the singular

March

5

His Som  
merest }

and }  
folly }

summerset of Leut. Clay, his capture will hardly be considered a public loss. His volunteer service in a war to extending slavery, is too ridiculous to require a defense. His reasonings while editor of a paper, will not be strengthened by his opinions since he became a volunteer in Mr Polks war of invasion for the conquest of territory and the extension of slavery. We leave the Lieutenant in the hands of the Mexicans, who may teach him, that they have rights as well as ourselves; and that [ ] of zeal, in the cause of anti-slavery, avail nothing, when a counter course is found in practice. Mr Clay [ ] [ ] retrain the character he has lost by his folly~

From the present aspect of the war, It appears that the Mexicans are determined to resist our invading forces, with their utmost energy. They may be beaten in general

March

5

engagements and so were we  
in the early part of our war  
of independence; but time and  
experience taught us how to  
fight and the same process  
may bring into the field  
troops of equal prowess.  
Too late then, we may  
regret that we have taught  
them their strength & con  
verted them to a military na  
tion which may remem  
ber the wrongs we have [    ]  
upon them.

6

Saturday. Morn fair, wind  
N, and day fair & partly clear

7

Sunday. Morn cloudy, wind  
W. the day continued cloudy  
with some fog on the hills  
and a complete coat of snow  
on the Ground. Some rain PM.  
The papers gave us gratifying ac  
counts of the efforts making for the  
relief of the starving people of Ireland & Scotland

March		What a contrast between this
7		and the war spirit which de
		mocracy has roused against the
		Mexicans, because they are
		endeavoring to defend their country
		against our rapacity
8		<u>Monday</u> . Morn cloudy, wind
		S.W. Sun out before noon
		and day
		Recd. a Letter from Elizabeth
		Arthurs wife dated at Mid
		dlebury March 2d, stating
		all to be well. Arthur hav
		ing some 16 miles of survey to make about
		that place; they expect to remain
		there about three weeks, and then
		to take up residence at Burlington
		They arrived at Middlebury on
		Monday the 22d ultimate, kept sun
		day at Rutland. Arthur, she
		says, is very busily engaged on the
		survey.
9		<u>Tuesday</u> . Morn partially cloudy
		wind N.E. and the day
		continued nearly the same
		throughout.

Letter  
from  
friends }



- March  
10      Wednesday. Morn cloudy  
wind S.W. PM. clear &  
thawing sun. Wrote a letter  
to Arthurs wife at Middle  
bury Vermont in answer to hers  
of the 2d instant.
- 11      Thursday. Morn fair, wind  
N.W. & cold; the day continued  
fair but rather cold; and some  
clouds at night.
- 12      Friday. Morn clear, wind  
S.W.; the day very clear, but  
[     ] much impression on the  
snow. Ten or 12 cars I am in  
formed left our rail road depot  
loaded with Cattle for the Brigh  
ton market.
- 13      Saturday. Morn partially  
cloudy wind N. P.M.  
fair and cold & wind N.E.  
We have a rumor that a  
battle has occurred near Sal  
tillo between Gen Taylor & Santa Anna

- March  
13 but no particulars have been received. It may turn out a [ ] rumor, but it is not improbable, since the main force under Gen. Scott is operating on the coast against Vera Cruz. From the present aspect of the war it is clear that the Mexicans are far from being a conquered people; and with a permanent government and an adequate publick treasury the Mexicans would repel the invading force of Mr Polk and teach him & his party that a war of [ ] cannot be maintained by a moral people.
- 14 Sunday. Morn fair, wind N. and cold air. and the day fair tract the suns rays made any little impressions on the snow.
- 15 Monday. Morn fair wind SW and day generally very clear, but cold air  
Our rail road train passes

March  
15

Our  
rail  
road }

four times per Day, and it is said conveys a considerable amount of property to Boston market, as well as passengers. Whether the road will be extended up the Connecticut from Greenfield is now a question of doubt. and depends on the construction of rail roads on other routes.

The project for a rail road from Willimansett to Groats corner, seems now coming to a close, and a petition is now presented to the general court for one from Palmer through Belcher town Amherst, Sunderland to the Bridge across the Connecticut at the latter town. But will the people of those towns defray the expense; and what capitalist at a distance, will invest his money on that enterprise, mainly for the benefit of a few towns

16

Tuesday. Morn fair. wind SW and fair day, but cold.

March  
16

Mr Polks "favorable season"  
for prosecuting the war in  
Mexico is now about closing,  
and why has this occasion been  
lost? The answer is ready. The  
war was commenced without pre  
paration; the volunteer plan  
proved of little worth, and ex  
perience has taught, that standing  
regular troops can alone be relied on.  
This every military man of  
judgment, knew at the beginning  
but whether regulars or volun  
teers are employed in the wet  
season the malaria of Mexi  
co will probably make a  
horrid sweep in their ranks;  
and yet our inconsiderate young  
men enter upon this service as  
ignorant of their fates as they are  
of the impulse of the war.

17

Wednesday Morn fair, wind W.  
and fair day: Weather contin  
ues cold and the snow  
melts but slowly. Sleighing  
pretty good.

March

17

The  
Wea  
ther }

The sun being so  
near the vernal equinox, it  
appears singular that the weath  
er continues so cold. Compared  
with the temperature at the Au  
tumnal equinox what a differ  
ance! But when we reflect that  
the land N of 30 or 40 degrees of Lat  
in the northern hemisphere is cov  
ered with snow and a cold  
atmosphere, the wonder ceas  
es; once without the existence  
of internal heat in the earth, we  
might look for a longer con  
tinuence of the snowy canopy.  
“Thus at thy potent nod effect & course  
Walk hand in hand, accordant to thy laws”<sup>9</sup>

18

Thursday Morn fair, wind  
SW. PM cloudy.

Wrote a letter to Col. Bryant &  
Isabella (Chicopee falls).

19

Friday Morn broken clouds  
wind NW afternoon fair  
wind NE, Cold air

---

<sup>9</sup> Erasmus Darwin. *The Temple of Nature*, Canto IV.

March  
20

Saturday Morn fair

wind N.E. Afternoon cloudy  
wind S.W.

Sena  
tor  
Ben  
ton }

Mr Polk's "favorable season"  
for pushing his [ ] into  
southern Mexico, is now nearly  
closed as well as the terms of his  
first volunteer corps. Former  
Senator Benton been pro  
moted to the rank of Lieut.  
General with a carte blanche  
would the "tardy" move  
ments of Generals Scott and Tay  
have tarnished our democrat  
ic tactics. No! The experience  
and profound strategy of the  
Senator, untrammelled by  
the former rules of war,  
have enabled him {—}{—}  
are this time, to siege the Halls  
of Montezuma & brought the  
Mexicans to the most abject  
terms. For any thing we  
know, the Senator may ~~may~~  
pass the genius of a Conde  
and who is more able to deserve

- March  
20 such recondite gratification  
than Mr Polk? But the Senator  
it appears, declines his appoint  
ment of Major General in the  
Army, since he cannot act  
under Generals Scott and Taylor  
as a subordinate or a [ ]  
indeed.  
If the Senator possesses the pro  
ficient talents of a Commander  
it is a little singular that  
they have not been known  
by and the limits of Missouri  
until this day, when we had  
his own word for it, endorsed  
by Mr Polk
- 21 Sunday Cloudy morn with  
fog & gentle rain, wind N  
the day.  
Sun now at the vernal equinox  
and the ground covered, with  
snow, Day cloudy with some  
rain
- 22 Monday. Cloudy morn wind  
NE & rain & sleet; the day cloudy  
and very little thinning of the snow

March		This month thus far has
22		been as cold as the preceeding
23		winter
		<u>Tuesday</u> . Morn cloudy wind
		NE. and day the same
		<u>Island of Lobos:</u> (Lobos)
Island	}	A writer at the island under
of Lo		the date of March 7 <sup>th</sup> says
bos		“The Island is lovely little
		spot, about 2 miles in cir
		cumference, 12 miles from the
		Mexican shore, about miles
		from Tampico, and some 130
		miles from Vera Cruz. It is cov
		ered with trees & shrubs; brack
Cli	}	ish water is found by digging
mate		from 4 to 6 feet. Fish and fowl
		are in profusion; and with these
		we have a delightful sea air, that
		14 hours out of 24 makes the
		place pleasant; but we are lit
		erally roasting during a portion
		of the day. The sun is so hot that
		our faces & arms are blistered if
		exposed only a few minutes.



March  
23  
Heat }  
of }

To day by Fahrenheit, in the  
the shade I scored 92 degrees.  
The remark among the volunteers  
is "If this is winter, what will, sum  
mer be?" There are few such in  
our regiment, and they are from the  
country.

Gen. Scotts forces, it is supposed,  
are to assemble at the island, land  
on the coast at, or near Tempi  
co and make a land march  
to Vera Cruz. But at this season  
it will be singular if they ex  
cape fatal sickness; and if they  
carry Vera Cruz by siege, the  
march to the Mexican capital  
will be 200 miles, over a broken  
populous & difficult country.  
and under the nearly vertical rays  
of the sun. Under these conditions  
troops would not be singular.  
At this season military operations  
within or near the tropics are attended  
by fatal sickness diseases, especially among  
new troops from the temperate  
regions. In

March  
23

Effects  
of hot  
season  
on  
troops

In a work entitled A Systematic View of the formation, discipline, and economy of Armies the author says, “the revolution of a season kills or renders ineffective two thirds of a regiment or of an army, allotted to the service of the islands in the West Indies.” (Dr. Robert Jackson an experienced Army Surgeon, printed London, 1804)

Inva  
sion  
of St  
Domingo

In 1802 Bonaparte sent a force to St Domingo, consisting 35000 of his best troops, and a considerable feat to take and hold possession of the island. In the course of 4 or 5 months the French troops were reduced to 13,000 men by pestilence and the sword, and the island was restored to its negro government. Numerous other cases

- March  
23 might be cited to show the fatality of campaigns in regions in, or near, tropical countries. Bonaparte's forces sailed from France in December 1801 and the campaign chosen in the following May, but the "favorable season" was not exempt from sweeping sickness, and the commander Le Clerc, and several of his best officers fell victims to the climate. Should the war with Mexico continue through the approaching hot season. I tremble for the fate of our deluded volunteers, whose bones will strew the field of Mexico, and serve as monuments of the injustice of a neighboring nation, which had lost its sense of right & rectitude in its inordinate cupidity.
- 24 Wednesday. Morn particularly cloudy but soon fair, and wind W the day generally cloudy

March

24

Reports

of a

Battle

in Mex

ico



The New-York Herald of the 22 instant, contains various accounts of a Battle between Gen. Taylor's forces & those Santa Anna, near Saltillo, in which Gen Taylor lost 2,000 and Santa Anna 4,000 men. The accounts are incoherent and uncertain, but that a battle has occurred is probable. Gen Taylor is said to have retreated to Monterey, & lost some of his wagon train, and his line of operation with the Rio Grand, exposed to the Mexican detached parties His force is said to be from 5000 to 6000 and the Mexicans from 20,000 to 25,000, most of the regular troops being with Gen. Scott on the expedition against Vera Cruz. The number said to have been killed on both sides is improbable We wait for more authentic accounts The general action has taken place as the accounts state on the 21 and 22d of the February

it

March

24

No  
account  
from  
Gen  
Taylor }

it is singular that no thing definite has been heard of it from Gen. Taylor, at this time. This delay is to be accounted for, only on the supposition that the communication between Monterey and the Rio Grand had been cut off by Santa Anna's forces; and of the numerical force of the Mexicans, was so great as the accounts state, that is not improbable; ~~and~~ In this case Mr. Polk may find it necessary to call for new volunteer corps; per his ten new regiments and in corp's and the officers & men are to be disciplined, before they are brought into the battle field. Expence may teach Mr. Polk one useful lesson Viz That before he invades a country he should be prepared for it; and that new fledged Generals should try their wings before they attempt a flight. Senator Benton

March  
24  
Sena  
tor  
Ben  
ton }

Benton may, however, be an  
exception, for  
“He asks no Angel’s wing, no seraph’s fire”<sup>10</sup>  
to aid his ascent to Mr Polks  
Lt. General & commander in Chief  
The modesty of this man re  
minds me of Gay’s Bear in the  
Boat.  
“A Bear of shagg and manner rough  
At climbing trees expert enough,  
For dexterously, and safe from harm,  
Year after year he robbed the swarm  
Thus thriving on industrious toil  
He gloried in his pilfered spoil  
The trick so swelled him with conceit  
He thought no enterprise to great  
Alike in sciences & in arts,  
He boasted universal parts;  
Pragmatic, busy, bustling bold,  
His arrogance was uncontrol’d:  
And thus he made his party good,  
And grew dictator of the wood  
The beasts, with admiration stare  
And think him a prodigious Bear.”

---

<sup>10</sup> Alexander Pope, *Essay on Man*.

- March  
24 In his success, in navigating his boat, see fable 5<sup>th</sup>, Vol. 2d. The Fable is replete with hints for the conduction of our national affairs at this time~
- 25 Thursday. Morn hazy, but soon fair, and wind SW. the day fair and air a little softened
- Rail }  
road } In the deep cuts of our rail road frequent obstructions ~~are~~ are found from the sliding earth from the declivities, and 8 or 10 men are employed to remove the obstructions. This is a circumstance that ought to have been avoided in the choice of route.
- 26 Friday. Morn cloudy, wind NE; day cloudy & some rain~  
From an analysis of all the accounts from Mexico, it appears there had been several days of fighting between Santa Anna and Gen. Taylor, and the latter

March

26

Gen. Taylor's retreat

and  
Scotts  
armies  
move  
ments

had been compelled to fall back towards the Rio Grand with considerable loss of men artillery & baggage, leaving a garrison at Monterey for its defence. If the Mexicans are as numerous as reported, they may recover the Country as far as that river; in which case, Gen. Scotts expedition down the coast, and even the capture of Vera Cruz will be but a short step in the conquest of Mexico. But suppose Gen. Scott obtains possession of Vera Cruz, it must be by a regular siege, and it ~~may be~~ perhaps a protracted one. Is he then to march on to the Mexican capital at this season, when the ~~almost~~ vertical rays of the sun are darting upon his men in full vigor fraught with ~~the~~ fatal pestilence and death. The fate of Bonaparte's troops in the expedition to St Domingo



March  
26 may be reiterated with all  
of its horrors.

27 Saturday. Cloudy morn,  
rain last night, some snow  
in the morn, with wind from  
N & NE; the day continued cloudy & cold  
Some of the flying accounts from  
Mexico say, Gen. Taylor [ ] ~~+~~  
cut from further retreat from the places  
~~from his retreat to Monterey~~; and  
that he had called on the Governors of  
the SW states for reinforcement of  
troops, in addition to the volunteers  
now on their passage by sea Col.  
Cushings volunteers from Massa  
chusetts, may yet find other than  
a pleasant sport. Santa Anna's  
Mexicans, seem to be prepared for  
fight, and if they have captured  
6 pieces of cannon from Gen. Taylor  
they will again meet him in  
the field. With determined reso  
lutions, and show a resist  
ence not looked for by our  
wild war hawks. Where

March  
27

The  
mili  
ary  
oper  
ation  
in  
Mexi  
co

Where are Mr Polk's ten new regiments? The officers are appointed, but we have nothing of the rank & file Perhaps, like Senator Benton, they think the "better part of courage is prudence" and stay at home, secure from harm. The advance of the Mexicans at the time seems to be equal [—] finding a portion of Taylor's force drawn off under Scott to attack Vera Cruz Santa Anna advanced upon the forces near Saltillo, forced him back to ~~Monterey~~ Buena Vista & pushed forward strong detachments towards Taylor's base on the Rio Grand to break up the line & to capture the weak [ ] erected for its defence; and with Santa Anna's ~~vast~~ superiority this is a probable result in which case the conquest must commence de novo<sup>11</sup>. In the mean time Taylor with an insufficient supply of provisions, may capitulate.

---

<sup>11</sup> Latin "start from the beginning"

March	Should this occur, Gen. Taylor
27	will no doubt be <del>blamed</del> censured for ad
Re	vancing so far into the Country with
marks	so small a force: but undoubtedly he
on }	received his orders from the <u>white</u>
	<u>house</u> , by & with the consent
	of Senator Benton. Mr Polk's chief coun
	ciler. What a pity the Senator is
	not at head of the army, with a
	<u>carte blanche</u> & 3 millions of Dollars
	from Mr Polk's <u>secret purse</u> !
28	<u>Sunday</u> Morn fair wind W;
	day very clear dissolving the
	snow slowly: the ground shows
	on the west side of hills, but
	the air is rather cold.
29	<u>Monday</u> . Morn cloudy &
	snowy, wind N; cloudy & fair
	All the accounts received from the
	Rio Grand agree in representing
	Gen. Taylor's Army as in
	a critical situation, either at
	Monterey or some position further
	south. Santa Anna with his
	overwhelming force, holding the
	adjacent country, and extremely

March  
29

Some  
of the  
rcd }

strong detachments toward the Rio Grand to capture Taylor's posts on the river before [ ] [ ] can be sent for his defence. Should Taylor's provisions fail, he may be compelled to surrender his force to the Mexicans. Several volunteer regiments are on the passes to Brazos, and whether they will arrive in season to afford relief to Taylor, is doubtful. At any rate, they will be but ill prepared for field fighting on their debarkation. In the mean time Scott may capture Vera Cruz, but probably he will find a strong force in the mountains between him & the city of Mexico. Now it appears that a country of 6 or 7 millions of inhabitants are not to be conquered at a blow. And should we, by our [ ] strides, convert the Mexicans to a military nation, we may rue the lesson we have taught them.

March  
30

Tuesday. Morn broken clouds  
wind N.W., day clear & pleasant, but a plenty of snow on the ground & air cool~  
It is rumored today, and believed by some, that the recent accounts of Gen. Taylor's & Santa Anna's movements in Mexico, are all a fabrication. But as low an opinion as I have of some of the democratic papers, I am not ready to believe that, the whole [ ] a tissue of lies fabricated by the Editors. Such a gross imposition should sink the character of their papers to infamy. Under the fashionable phrase of of a Hoax some are ready to believe them very harmless, and even a display of wit & shrewdness. We are not of this school—We despise falsehood in every form and shape

31.

Wednesday, Morn cloudy, with brisk snow 2 or 4 inches deep, wind N.E. & winter in full fact. The

March  
31

Steam }  
Mill }

The day mostly cloudy,  
but the sun seen alternately sank  
cold air  
An association of our people  
is preparing & collecting materials  
for ree[rec]cting a steam mill near  
the rail road opposite to the south  
end of our village. Of the utility  
of these machines I have not much know  
ledge: but if found useful  
I think it must be in places where  
nature has been sparing of water  
falls, which in a degree is the  
case in this town. The mill  
though safe from water floods,  
are exposed to fire, and with  
out [ ] care will be con  
summed. I hope the enterprise will  
be successful~

April  
1

Thursday

Morn fair, Wind S.W.,  
the day fair & cool.  
The aspect is now that of the  
depth of winter, sleighing good  
and not a patch of ground to  
be seen. This is something  
uncommon at this season.

April  
1

The Springfield Dayly of yesterday contains corroborative accounts of Santa Anna's & Gen. Taylor's operations in Mexico, but nothing official from the latter. It appears Taylor had repressed the attacks of the Mexicans but had been compelled to retreat to Monterey, with the loss of 6 pieces of cannon which left spiked, and his retreat to the Rio Grand completely obstructed.

[ ] to [ ] upon a just cause, the Mexicans are putting forth energy worthy of men whose rights are disregarded and all of its institutions ~~prostrated~~ assembled to gratify and crown ambitions ~~craving~~ of our wild democracy, whose math in plain language, would be anarchy, [ ] spoil and my gain!~~

Death  
of Gen  
Nevers }  
ers

We hear of the death of Gen. John Nevers of Northfield, Sheriff of our County, on the 30<sup>th</sup> ulto aged 74 years. He attended Court last week at Greenfield returned home sick and died after a short illness

Sketch  
of Cha  
racter }

In the life of Gen. Nevers much is seen that was commendable and particularly in his industry and perseverance, under untoward circumstances, in gaining an education competent to the practice of law. which he followed for several years in the town of Northfield. If on his younger days, he was swept along by the current of Jeffersonian politics in his later life he made amends by embracing a regular course, which has met the esteem of the true patriots and his loss will be regretted by the public.

2. Friday. Morn cloudy and snow falling briskly, with a NW wind; day continued cloudy and considerable snow fell. Winter now puts on its full dress & spring seems distant.

3 Saturday. Morn cloudy; wind SW fair at noon. Day continued fair

We



April

3  
 account  
 recd of  
 the  
 late  
 Battle

We now have accounts of the battles fought between Santa Anna and Gen Taylor, on the 22d and 23 of February, at Buena Vista about 6 miles west of Saltillo, which are supposed to be authentic, though not official. These battles were fought with desperation on both sides, and Santa Anna fell back to Agua Nueva which had been occupied by Gen. Taylor. The loss on ~~the~~ ~~in~~ our side is put down at 700 wounded, and on the part of the Mexicans, estimated at about 4000. Gen Taylors communication with his base on the Rio Grand, is said to be cut off. See Springfield daily Republican April 2d.

4

Sunday Morn cloudy; some snow falling & W. wind. (~~Two particulars of [ ] by [ ] [ ]~~)  
~~See Springfield Daily Republican April 2, 1847~~ day continued cloudy and of course little thawing of the snow.

April  
5

Monday. Morn fair, wind N.  
and N.W. the day clear  
and some thawing of  
snow on the hill sides,  
and the roads have  
become bare.

This day an Election of  
County Commissioners by the  
several towns. Two tickets  
have been nominated by con-  
ventions at Greenfield. one  
of the old Board who refused  
to license taverns &c for the  
sale of ardent spirits, the other  
for a Board who will grant  
liberty to retail liquors in  
all cases when they shall  
think proper. The subject has  
~~excited~~ provided considerable excite-  
ment. The votes in this town  
were proved of 100 majority  
for the license ticket But the  
election I think is doubtful. Should  
the present [    ] system be continued  
I apprehend more disorder, will occur  
than in the one of ardent spirits.

April  
6

Letter  
from  
E. }

Tuesday. Morn cloudy, wind NE, with some fall of snow the day cloudy through out Recd a letter from Elizabeth H. dated Burlington April 1<sup>st</sup>. Her little Charles unwell with a cold. She represents the area ~~the~~ severe and the snow rather deep weather cold and the Lake still covered with ice. They board at the Express Hotel close to the Lake, but hope to get into a private family. Burlington, she thinks, is a pleasant place in the summer season which I believe is its character. The remarkable severity of the month of March pass is not confined to that place, we have experienced nearly the same. and I am informed that the snow is now 3 or 4 feet deep in the northerly part of Vermont. My anxiety for little Charles will interrupt my repose; he is a feeble one and needs the warm breezes of summer to restore his health and may they soon occur.

April  
7

Wednesday Morn partially fair  
wind N.W. and day generally  
fair, but not warm a plenty  
of snow on the ground~  
More than 40 days have elapsed  
since the battles between Santa An  
na & Gen Taylor occurred,  
and, as yet, we have no offic  
ial account from the latter  
but the accounts otherwise recd  
are supposed to be nearly cor  
rect; but the Mexican loss is  
no doubt much overrated.

April  
8

Thursday Morn fair  
wind SW day continued  
fair and reduced the snow.

Gen  
Tay  
lors  
official

We have at length received Gen.  
Taylors official accounts of the ballet  
at Buena Vista, about 7 miles south  
of Saltillo. The loss on his part  
is started at about 700 and that  
of the Mexicans 1500. The General  
prepares to return to Monterey. San  
ta Annas army is said to be retreating  
on San Luis Potosi in some confusion.

April  
8

Gen. }  
Scotts }  
Vera Cruz }

Fast }  
day }

Gen. Scotts forces are said  
to have landed near Vera Cruz  
on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March, and to have  
invaded the city & castle, without  
much opposition~

This day is our Annual fast, in com-  
pliance with the Governor's proclama-  
tion—an old practice of our Puri-  
tan Fathers still kept up in  
New England~

My good friend L.B. Lincoln  
of Hingham made me a spot  
call on the evening, full of his  
famed goodness. He has his  
family with him at Dr Willards  
and leaves tomorrow morning  
for home & his Academy~

April  
9

Friday Morn fair,  
wind NW, Some rain fell  
last night, lessening the snow  
considerably: The day con-  
tinued fair.

10

Saturday. Morn fair, wind  
variable from E to S.W., PM  
scattering clouds & fair wind  
W., brisk and cool. The  
snow nearly gone in our street  
and home lots.  
One month has elapsed since  
Gen Scott invested Vera Cruz  
and we have nothing of the pro-  
gress of the siege. Those who  
have volunteered in this service  
may, perhaps stifle their moral  
sense and claim to believe they are  
performing a duty to their country  
by killing & plundering the people  
of a neighboring republic who  
are striving for their rights &  
independence and only ask us  
to be just and do as we would  
be done by. But why do I pre-  
sent moral consideration to wild

rapacious democracy which  
 knows no right but power  
 and deems it meritorious  
 to kill & plunder their fellow  
 men for gain & spoil.

The plans & designs of the demo-  
 cratic leaders are daily losing  
 their disguise; Two thirds at  
 last of the Mexican territory are  
 to be annexed to ours, or the whole  
 brought under our rapacious  
 grasp. In this war the na-  
 tions of Europe will perceive the flaws  
 of our democracy: Their West In-  
 dia islands will next attract its  
 ferocity. Already Cuba has  
 been doomed to its fate‡ and  
 it remains only to get up some

---

‡To all who have [ ] the plans  
 of Democracy no proof is necessary to es-  
 tablish this facts. Already a motion  
 been broached in Congress, to authorize the  
 the purchase of the island; lest Annexation is  
 more [ ]



- April  
10 clashing with Spain to seize on the spoil. The British provinces on the North and east, are next to receive our paternal hug, and no land in N America is to be suffered to remain under the governments of Europeans; and wheth Darien is to limit our southern encroachment: history may relate. But Rome fell by her ambition & rapacity. So may we.
- 11 Sunday Morn fair, wind NW and fair day with cool air Little snow on the low grounds and that in detached patches.
- 12 Monday morn cloudy; wind SW & a flash of snow fell: the day generally fair but cool.
- 13 Tuesday. Morn cloudy wind N.E. but ~~soon~~ fair & clear throughout the day. The day Mr Forbes's family leave me to take residence in my farm house, and Mr Henry Osgood & new wife come to reside with me. During

April  
13

Departure of  
my family

Reflections

Fall  
of Vera  
Cruz

During the past year residence  
of Mr Forbes with me I have  
experienced the kindest care and  
it is due to them to say that  
I sincerely thank them for their  
great attention to my wants.

The two young boys Charles &  
George have affected me  
great amusement & became  
enlivening companions; and  
the little Sarah, of months is  
now developing the germs of the  
[ ] mind, has afforded me  
great [ ]. It is with regret  
I part with the whole group  
May the best of Heavens smiles  
attend them

Siege of Vera Cruz We have  
that the Mexicans surrounded  
the City & Castle to Gen. Scott on  
the 29<sup>th</sup> Ult. after 3 or 4 days  
firing from the batteries, and  
that 4000 men laid down their  
arms to our Army. Loss of our  
troops 65 killed & wounded.

What [ ] are next

April  
13

to be made by Gen. Scott is doubtful; but probably Mr Polks three millions of pocket money will be brought into operation and new annexations proposed. The capture of this post is but a small step towards the conquest of Mexico. In our revolutionary wars, we did not despair of defence while the British held New port, New-York City, Long Island Philadelphia and Charles town, S.C. though we were but three million of people, principally inhabiting the country east of the aleghany mountains and without resources for war. In the first three years of the war our prospects of success ~~were~~ were at a lower ebb than are the Mexicans at this time After our defeat from at White plain in 1776, the British captured forts Washington & Kings bridge with 2700 men Washington retreated over the Hudson to New Jersey & subsequently he ~~was~~ [ ] for Lee on the Jersey shore and retreated across that state [ ] the

April  
13

the Delaware to the Pennsylvania shore, with little more than a rear guard. During this depressed state of our army, the British over spread New Jersey and established positions on the Delaware with an impression that they could hold the country with a corporals guard"

In 1780 the British [ ] and took Charlestown S. Carolina in which was a garrison of about 5000 including militia & 500 in the hospitals. Upwards of 400 pieces of artillery were surrendered and all the American vessels in the harbor destroyed. Soon after the British ~~overspread~~ ran many parts of the Carolinas and our land forces were nearly annihilated. But though the southern states were for a times conquered, they were at length relieved & the army driven back to the sea coast.

If the Mexicans are excited and determined on defense, there is little ground for believing they will be conquered & submit to our ruthless invasion.

April  
14

Wednesday Morn fair, wind  
SW A fair day with scattering c.  
Up to this time we have had no  
day of warm air, and some  
patches of snow are still seen.  
If my recollections are cor  
rect, the transition from cold to  
hot are not to sudden as in  
former times, for which I can  
not readily account. that the  
clearing of the country of its  
woods should produce some al  
teration in its climate is probable  
but the result, appears to me  
doubtful.

15

Thursday. Morn cloudy.  
wind SW: the day generally  
cloudy, but the sun occasion  
ally out—air cool.  
We have Gen. Scotts official  
account of his capture of Vera  
Cruz. The first battle spread  
upon the City, late the 22d and  
the City [     ] Scott, 29<sup>th</sup> of  
March, after a capable [     ]  
force (See another Bound  
Book like this for Continuation)